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KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA

KNUCKLES™ THE ECHIDNA

BOOK FIVE

LOST PARADISE

PART TWO OF THREE

KEN PENDERS	MANNY GALAN	ANDREW PEPOY	BARRY GROSSMAN	VICKIE WILLIAMS	J. FREDDY GABRIE	VICTOR GORELICK	RICHARD GOLDWATER
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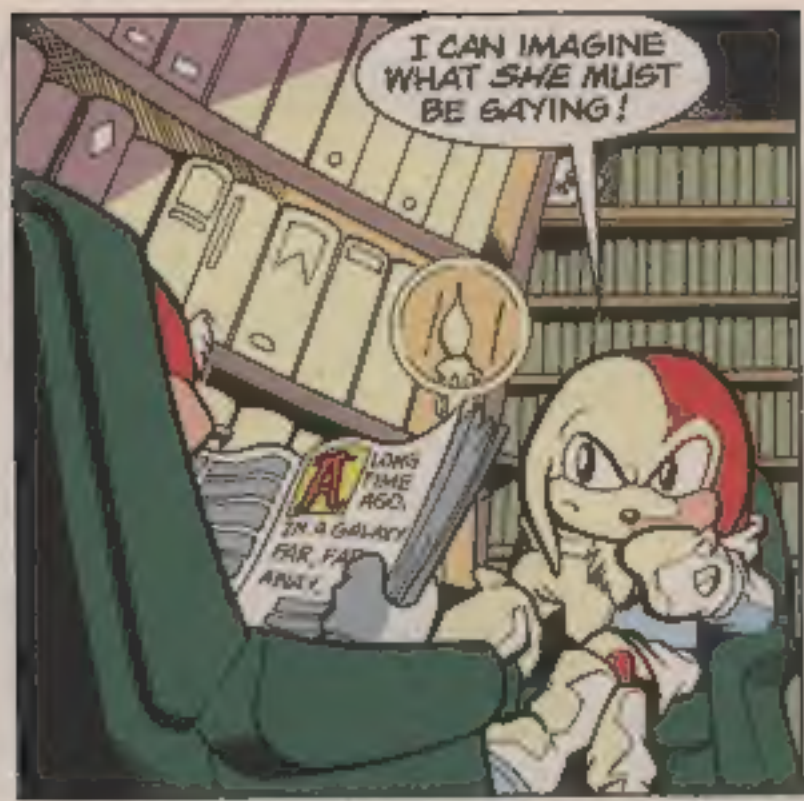
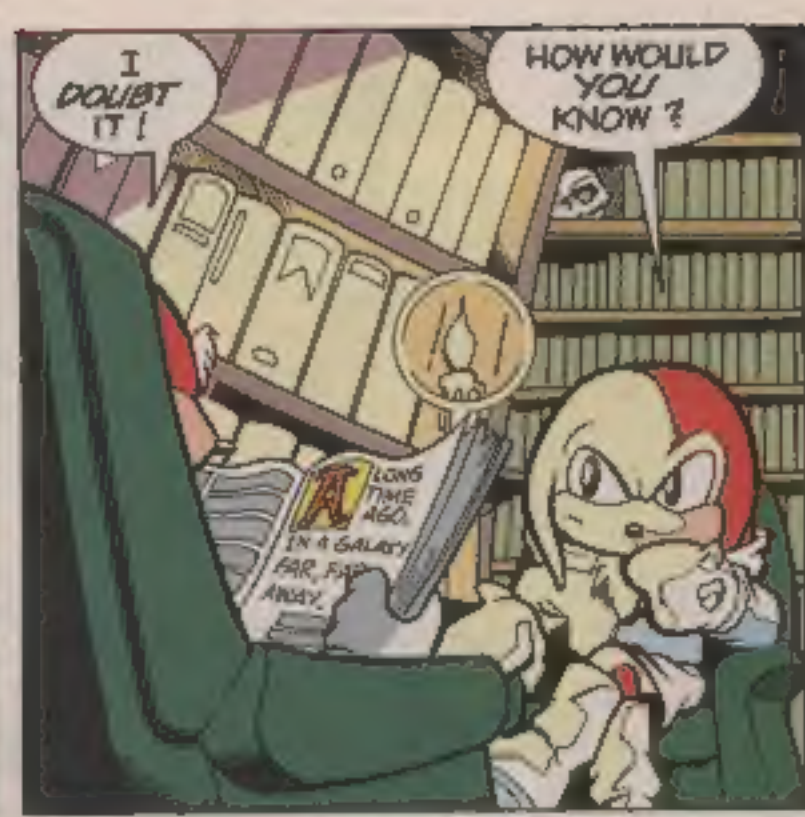
IMAGINE GROWING UP MOSTLY ALONE, WITH THE BELIEF YOU ARE THE LAST OF YOUR KIND, NEVER HAVING A FRIEND JUST LIKE YOU. YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT. YOU MAY EVEN RESENT IT. YOU DO, HOWEVER, LEARN TO DEAL WITH IT.

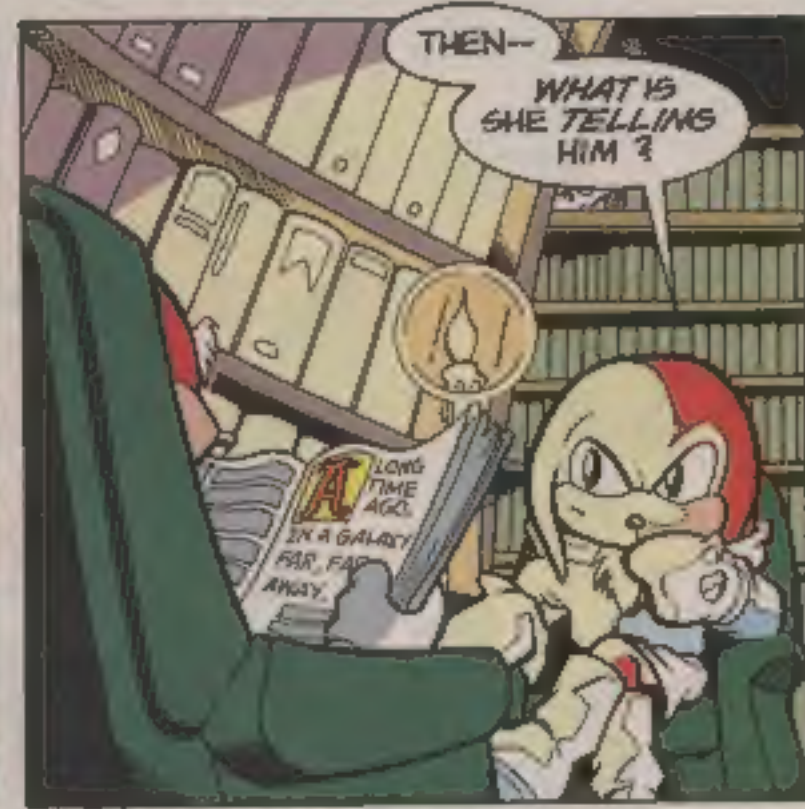
THIS HAS BEEN KNUCKLES' REALITY FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE. NOW, UPON REDISCOVERING THE LOST CITY OF ECHIDNAOPOLIS, IT BEGINS TO DAWN ON HIM THAT LIFE AS HE KNEW IT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION. WITH HIS TRAVELING COMPANIONS ARCHIMEDES AND JULIE-SU SERVING AS CONSTANT REMINDERS THAT THERE STILL REMAINS A LOT HE DOESN'T KNOW OR UNDERSTAND, KNUCKLES SEEKS OUT THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS THAT CONTINUE TO HAUNT HIM.

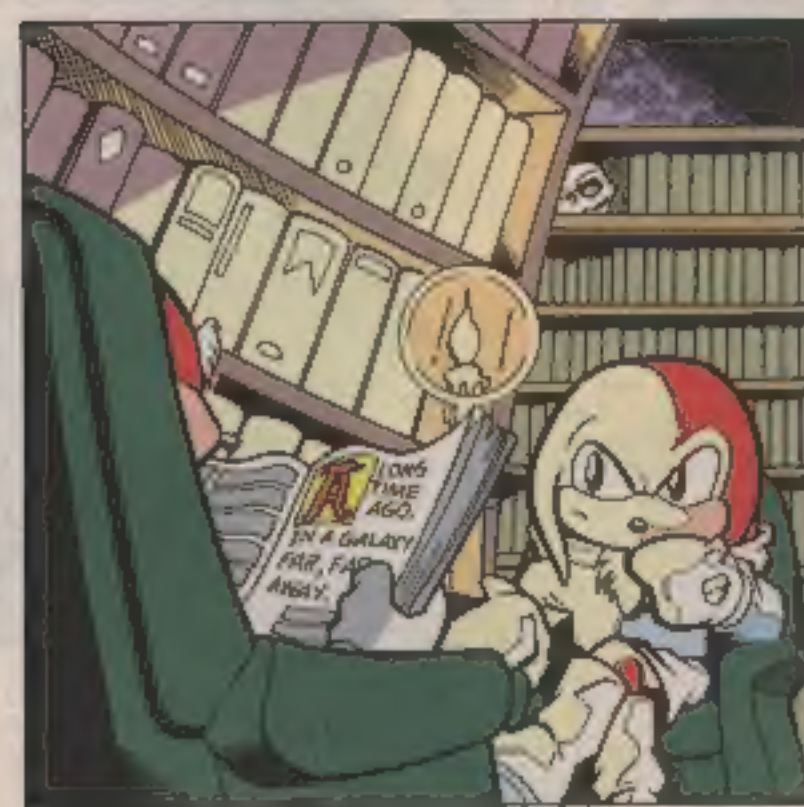
WHAT HE FINDS WILL BE MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR...

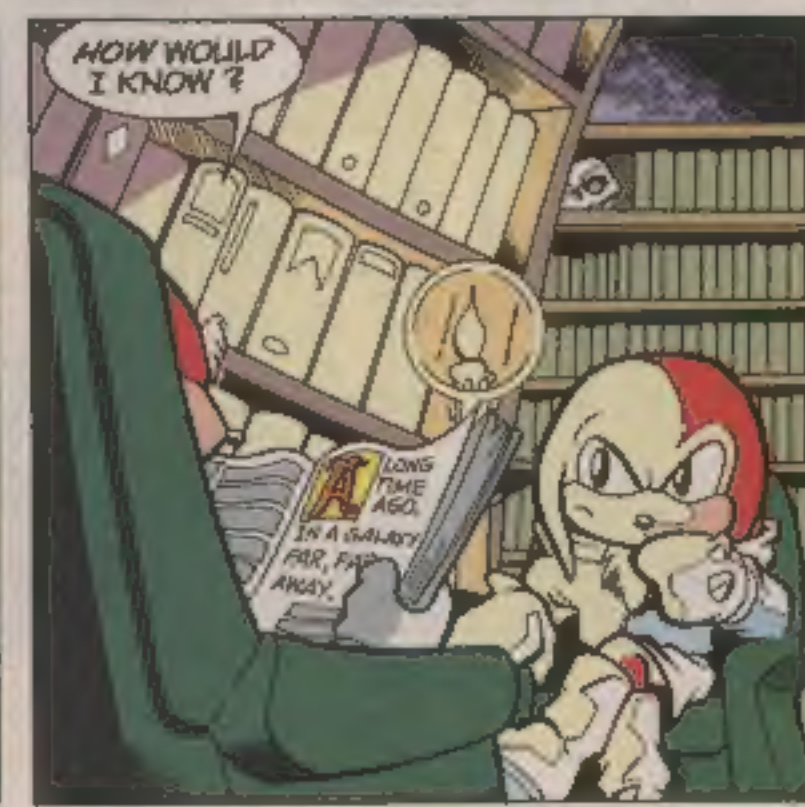

I CAN IMAGINE WHAT SHE MUST BE SAYING!
A LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.

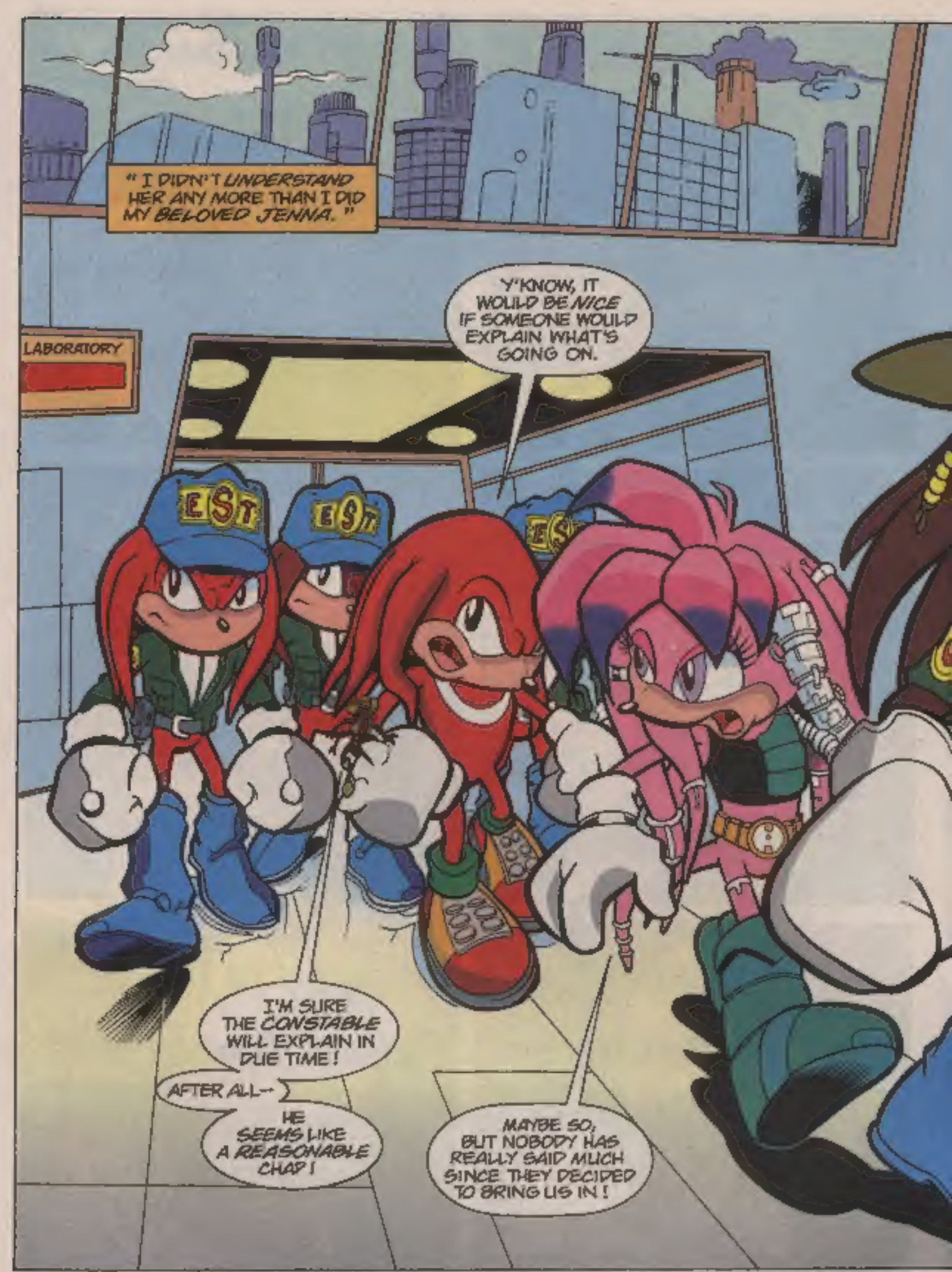

I DOUBT IT!
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
A LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.

I KNOW YOU. I KNOW LARA-LE AS WELL.
IS THAT SO?
A LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.


THEN--
WHAT IS SHE TELLING HIM?
A LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.


A LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.

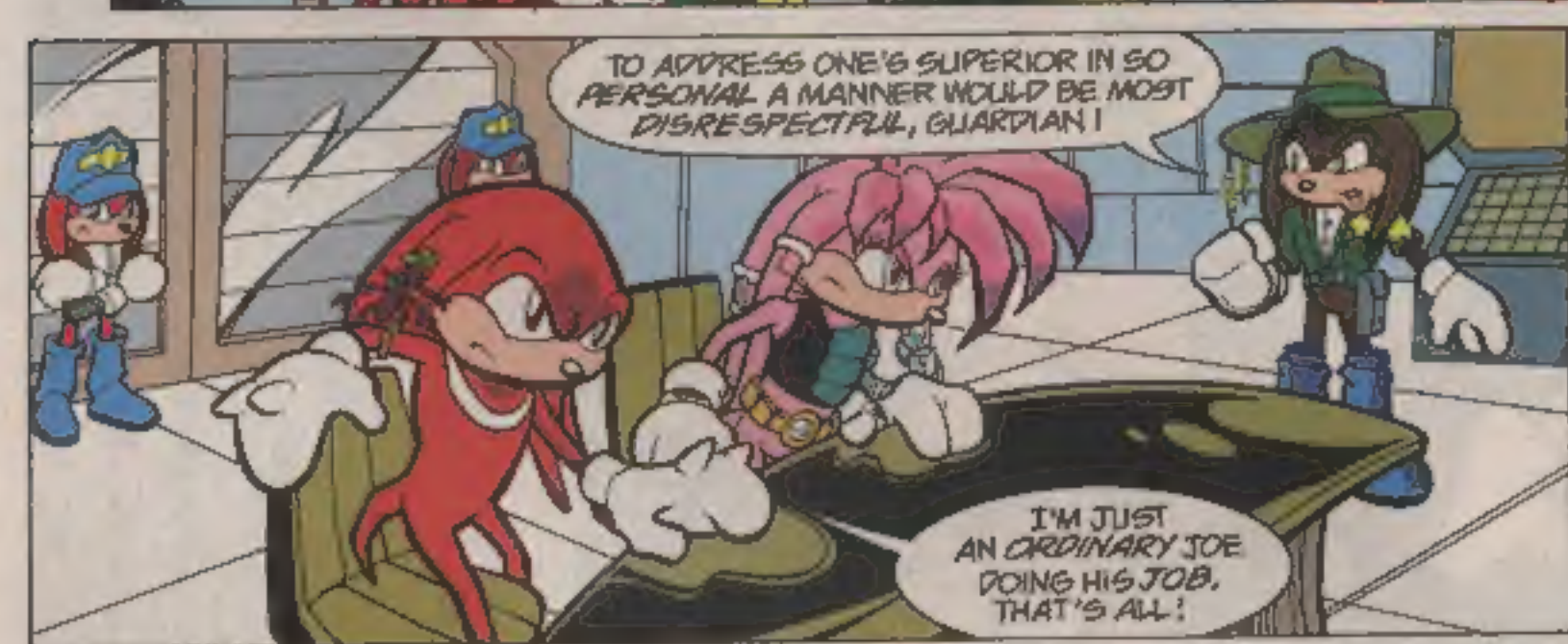

HOW WOULD I KNOW?
A LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.


"I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HER ANY MORE THAN I DID MY BELOVED JENNA."
LABORATORY
Y'KNOW, IT WOULD BE NICE IF SOMEONE WOULD EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON.
I'M SURE THE CONSTABLE WILL EXPLAIN IN DUE TIME!
AFTER ALL--
HE SEEMS LIKE A REASONABLE CHAP!
MAYBE SO, BUT NOBODY HAS REALLY SAID MUCH SINCE THEY DECIDED TO BRING US IN!

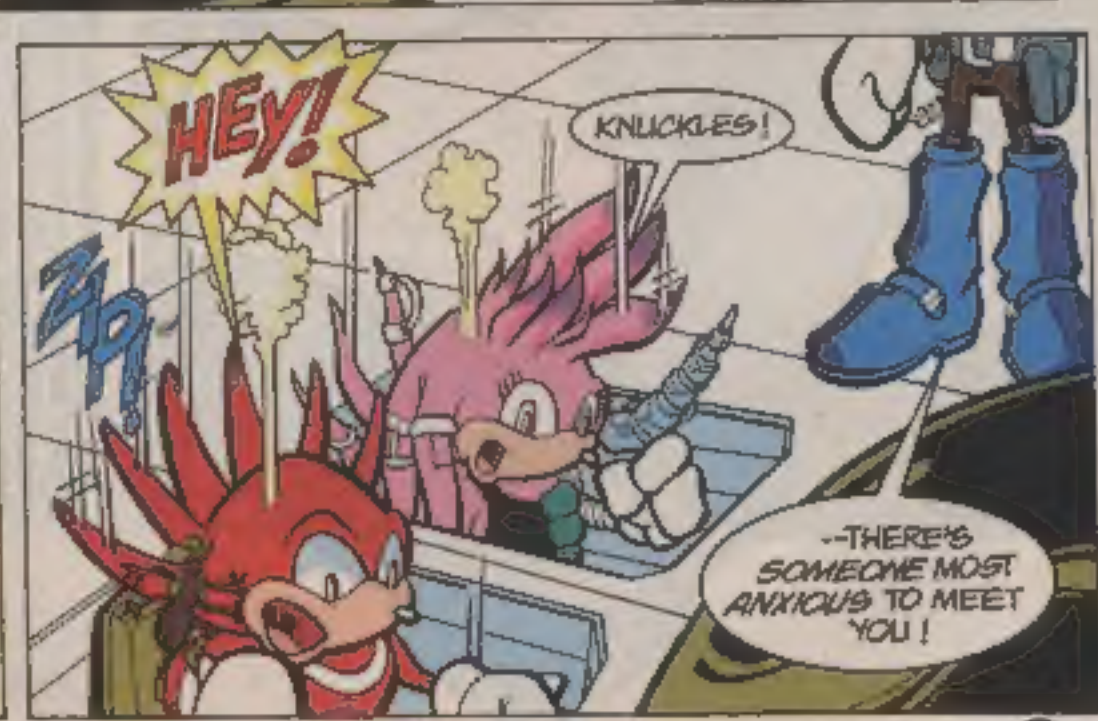
YES, SIR!
CONSTABLE REMINGTON IS TAKING THEM INTO THE BRIEFING ROOM RIGHT NOW!
I'LL SEE THAT HE GETS YOUR MESSAGE!
LIBRARY
FALLOUT

I'M AWFULLY SORRY FOR NOT RECOGNIZING YOUR STATION IMMEDIATELY, GUARDIAN--
--BUT THESE HAVE BEEN UNSETTLING TIMES!
EVERYONE'S ON EDGE!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!
BY THE WAY, THE NAME'S KNUCKLES!


TO ADDRESS ONE'S SUPERIOR IN SO PERSONAL A MANNER WOULD BE MOST DISRESPECTFUL, GUARDIAN!
I'M JUST AN ORDINARY JOE DOING HIS JOB, THAT'S ALL!

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, GUARDIAN--
--BUT YOU ARE FAR FROM ORDINARY!
IN FACT--
KLIK!

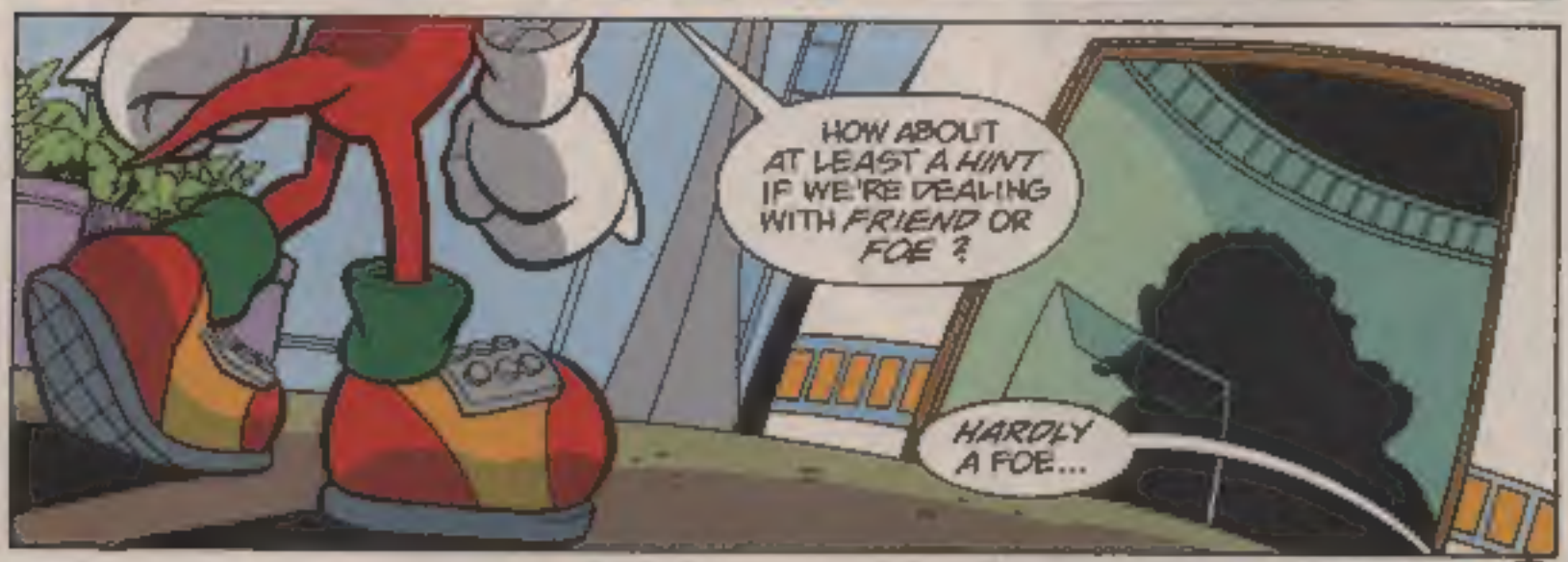

HEY!
KNUCKLES!
--THERE'S SOMEONE MOST ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU!

ARCHY!
HOW DO YOU STOP THIS CRAZY THING ?!!
WHOOSH

I THINK IT JUST DID!
SOFTER THAN EXPECTED, BUT STILL A LITTLE ROUGH ON THE TUSH!
WHUMP

WHY ISN'T JULIE-SU WITH US?
IF THEY HURT HER--
MMM MMMMM
RELAX KNUCKLES, I THINK SHE'LL BE OKAY!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS ALL ABOUT, ARCHY ?
COMPLETELY CLUELESS YOU AIN'T!
YEAH! THE ORIGINAL MISTER I-KNOW-NOTHING!
MOI ?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HERE, SAME AS YOU, KNUCKLES!


HOW ABOUT AT LEAST A HINT IF WE'RE DEALING WITH FRIEND OR FOE ?
HARDLY A FOE...

"... AND DEFINITELY *MORE* THAN A *FRIEND!*"

KHA-KHOOOM!!

AAAAAH!

I'LL BE--!

DINGOES! ALL AROUND US!

SIR! *ECHIDNAS!* ALL AROUND US!

WHAT'S GOING ON, SIR?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, SERGEANT!

I WISH I HAD *ANSWERS!*

I BETTER *REPORT* THIS TO *GENERAL STRYKER!*

WHERE *ECHIDNAS* ARE INVOLVED, IT'S *ALWAYS* A MATTER OF *TOP PRIORITY!*

KNOCK! KNOCK!

FORGIVE ME, *GENERAL*, FOR *DISTURBING* YOU, BUT I THOUGHT--

I *ALREADY* KNOW!

SIR?

YOU WISH TO TELL ME ABOUT THOSE ECHIDNAS WHO APPEAR, YET ARE *NOT* THERE!

GEN. STRYKER

YOU THINK I HAVEN'T *SEEN*? OR *FELT* THE DISTURBANCES?

ONCE AGAIN, *GERBIL*, WE MUST DEAL WITH THE *CURSED* ECHIDNAS AND THEIR EXPERIMENTS!

THEY SEEM TO THINK ONLY *THEIR* AFFAIRS MATTER!

BUT NO LONGER!

ASSEMBLE A CRACK TEAM OF *COMMANDOS*, GERBIL, AND WAIT FOR FURTHER ORDERS!

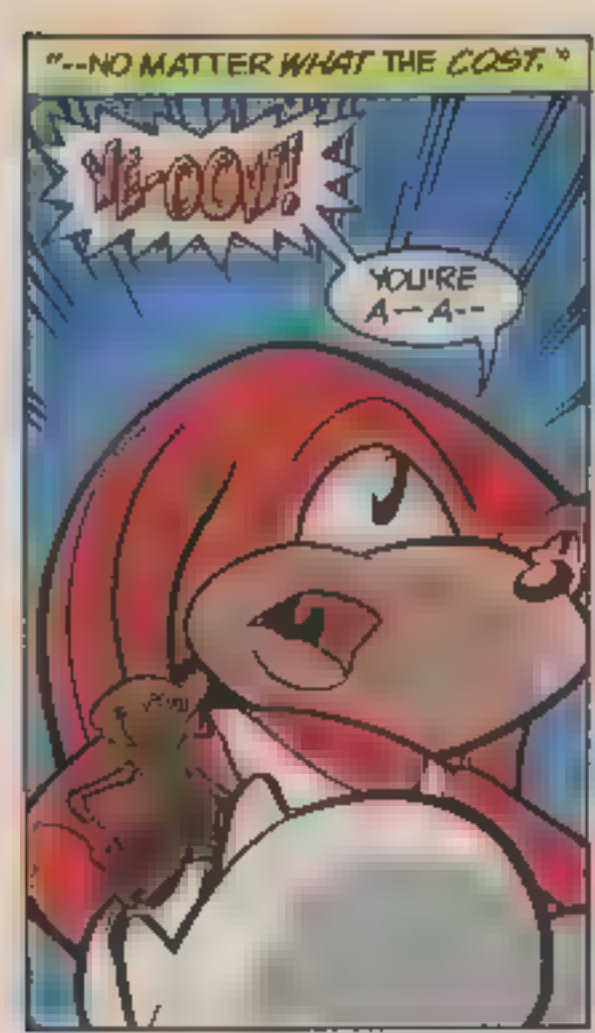
THEY MUST BE READY TO GO AT A *MOMENT'S* NOTICE.

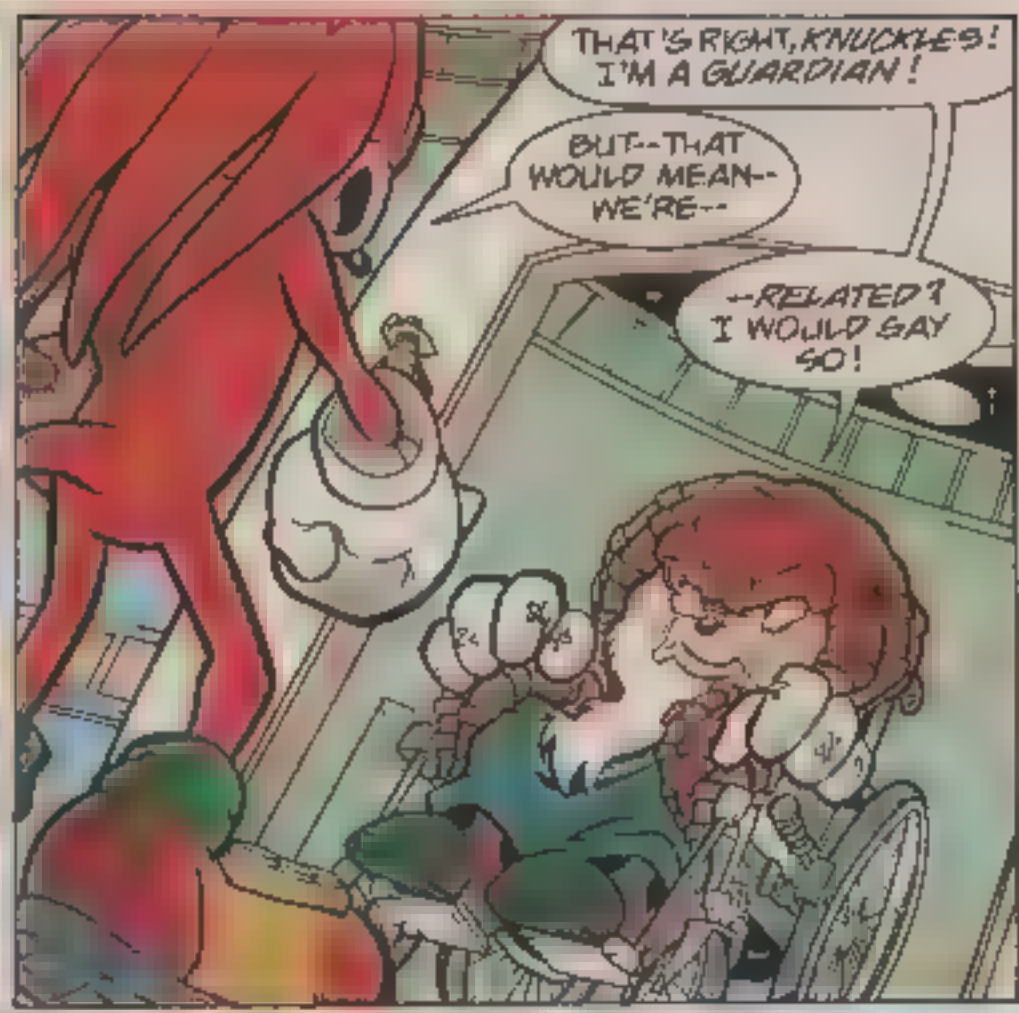
YES, SIR!

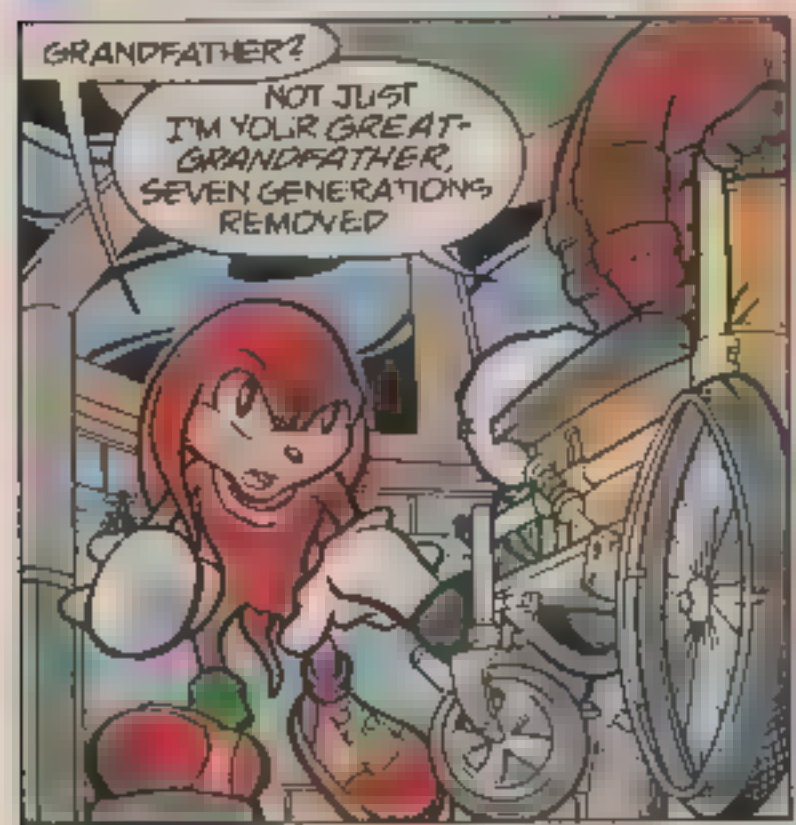
JUST WHEN I HAD ALL BUT *RESIGNED* MYSELF TO OUR COLLECTIVE FATE, IT SEEMS THAT *DESTINY* HAS DECIDED TO INTERVENE!

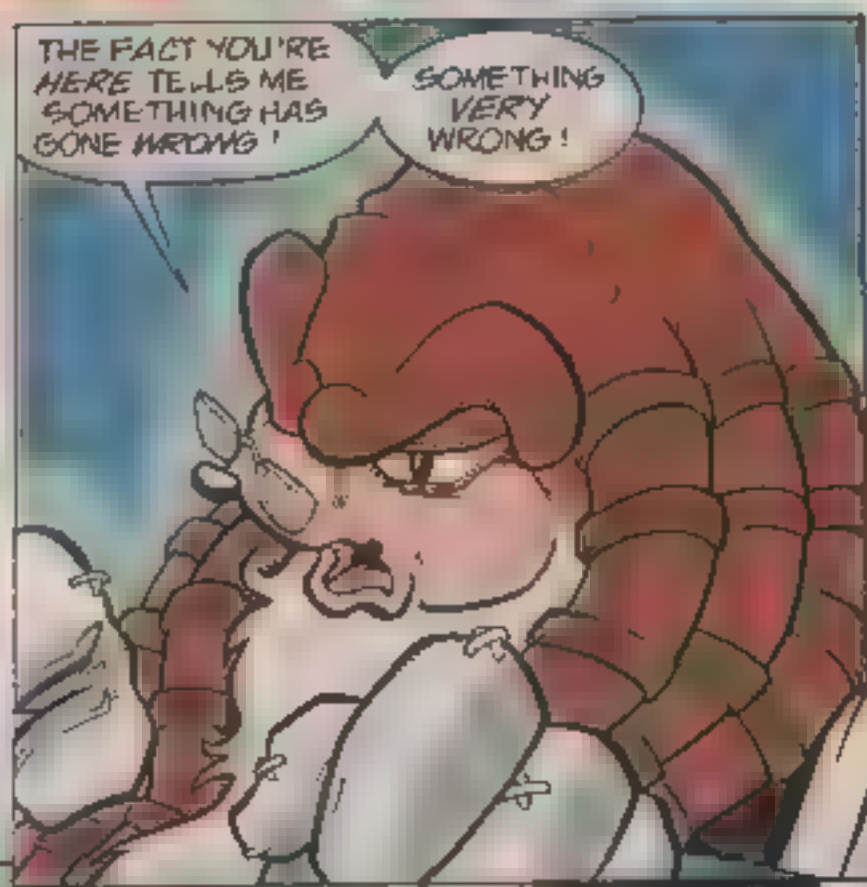
THIS TIME--

--WE WILL FIGHT TO THE *BITTER* END--


"--NO MATTER WHAT THE COST."
Y-OOW!
YOU'RE A--A--


THAT'S RIGHT, KNUCKLES! I'M A GUARDIAN!
BUT--THAT WOULD MEAN-- WE'RE--
--RELATED? I WOULD SAY SO!


GRANDFATHER?
NOT JUST I'M YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER, SEVEN GENERATIONS REMOVED


THE FACT YOU'RE HERE TELLS ME SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG!
SOMETHING VERY WRONG!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS!
WHERE ARE WE?
SOMEWHERE THAT SHOULD'VE REMAINED A MEMORY FOR YOU, AT BEST!
COME ALONG, SO I CAN BRING YOU UP TO SPEED!

FOR THE MOMENT, YOU'RE IN MY *INNER SANCTUM*!

IF YOU'LL BEAR WITH ME, I'LL EXPLAIN *EVERYTHING*!

OR, AT *LEAST*, THAT WHICH I *CAN*!

PRESS THE *GREEN* BUTTON ON THAT PANEL, SON--

--AND *GENTLY* REMOVE THE OBLONG BOX INSIDE THE COMPARTMENT!

A SET OF *DISCS*! NOW WHAT?

REMOVE THE *FIRST* ONE AND SLIDE IT INTO THE SLOT ON THAT CONSOLE NEXT TO YOU!

THOSE DISCS CONTAIN MY *LOGS* MADE DURING MY *TENURE* AS GUARDIAN ALMOST *200 YEARS AGO*!

AS YOU CAN SEE, I WAS A BIT MORE *YOUTHFUL* IN THOSE DAYS!

LOG ENTRY 366, HAWKING REPORTING. THIS IS THE *FIFTH* STORAGE DEPOT I'VE DISCOVERED BROKEN INTO!

FOR ONCE, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THE *LOOTERS* HAVEN'T MUCH OF A *HEAD START* ON ME!

ROOAAARRRR

OH, HO! THIS JUST MAY BE MY *LUCKY* DAY!

WITH N MOMENTS OF TAKING FLIGHT, I HAVE THE LOOTERS IN VISUAL RANGE! SINCE THERE IS NO ATTEMPT AT EVASIVE ACTION, I MUST ASSUME I HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!

SINCE IT'D BE A SHAME NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT...

BWMEY!

BAM

I JUST HATE BACKSEAT DRIVERS, DON'T YOU?

OW!

ME SNIFFER!

ONE DOWN—

—AND MORE TO GO!

DHOOM

IF THE WAY THAT TRUCK EXPLODED WAS ANY INDICATION—

--THEY WERE CARRYING SOMETHING VERY *NASTY* INDEED!

IT WAS THEN I BEGAN TO RECOGNIZE--

--THAT THE *DINGOES* WERE PREPARED TO GO TO *ANY* LENGTHS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES!

THE *DINGOES* HAD BEEN AT *WAR* WITH THE ECHIDNAS EVEN *BEFORE* THERE WAS A *FLOATING ISLAND*!

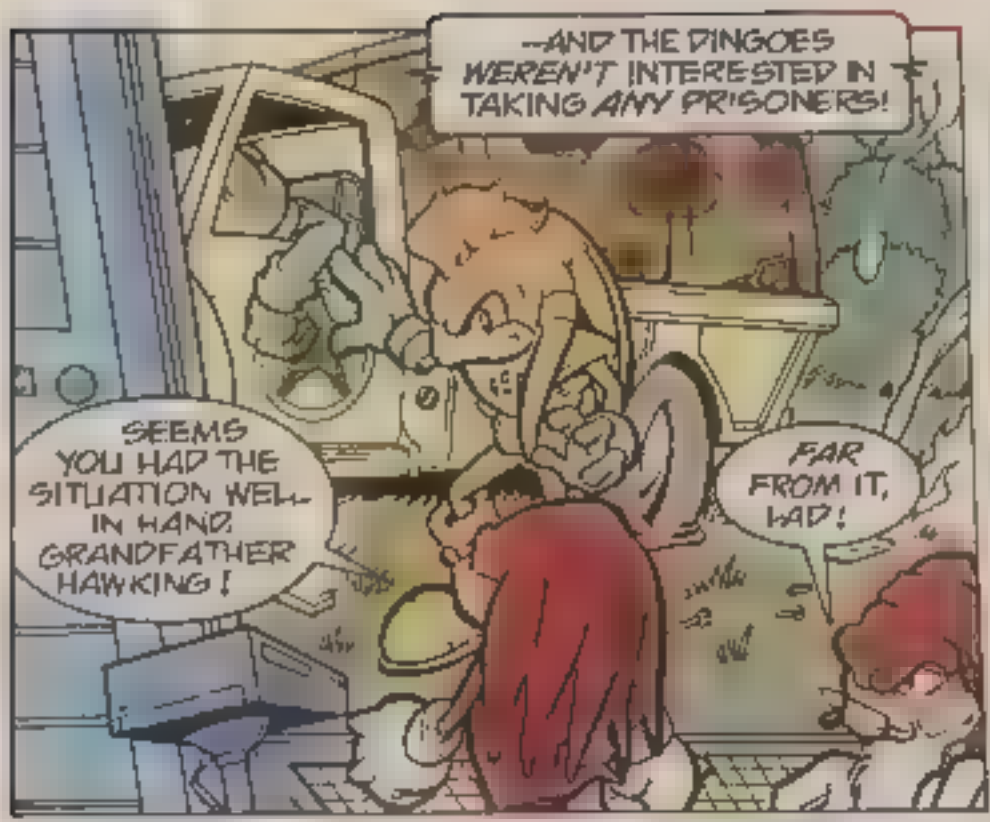
WATCH IT!!! YOU'LL HIT--!

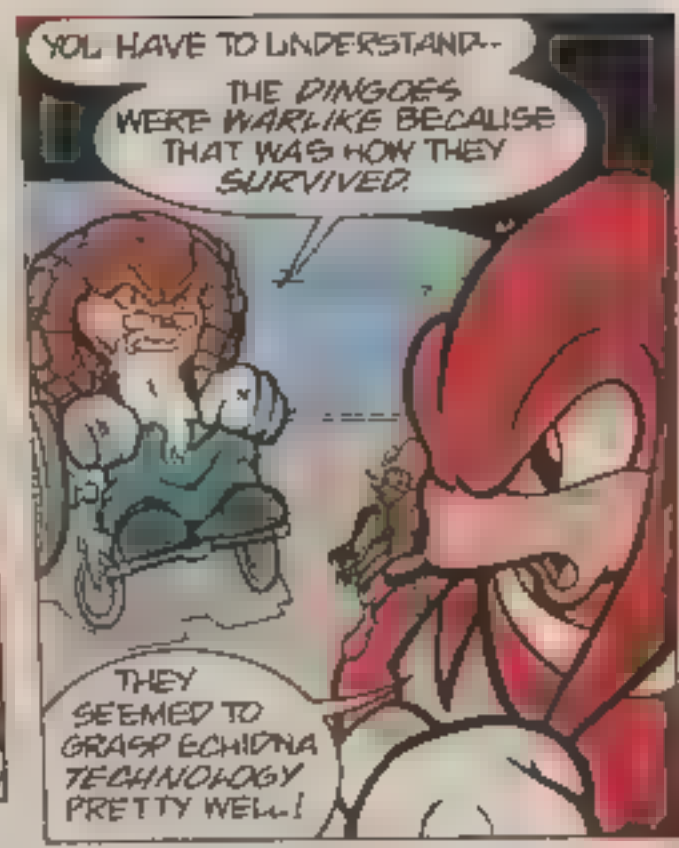
ZUZAT!

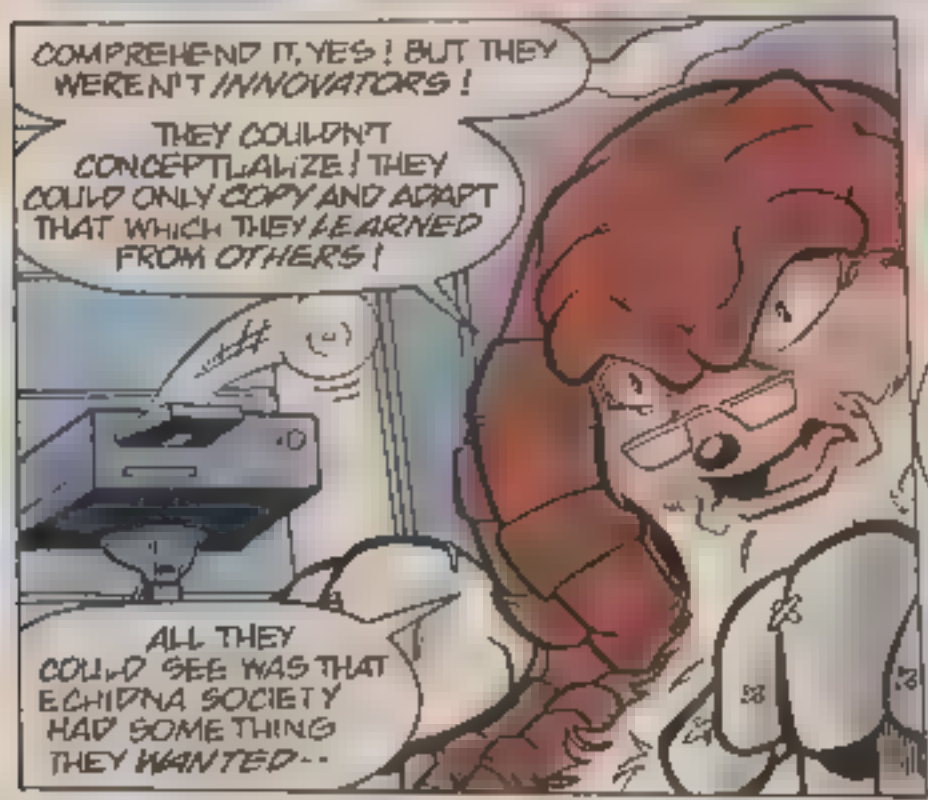
THEY'D RAISE A STINK ABOUT SOMETHING, WE'D BEAT THEM BACK, THEY'D STAY *QUIET* FOR AWHILE, AND THE *CYCLE* WOULD BEGIN AGAIN!

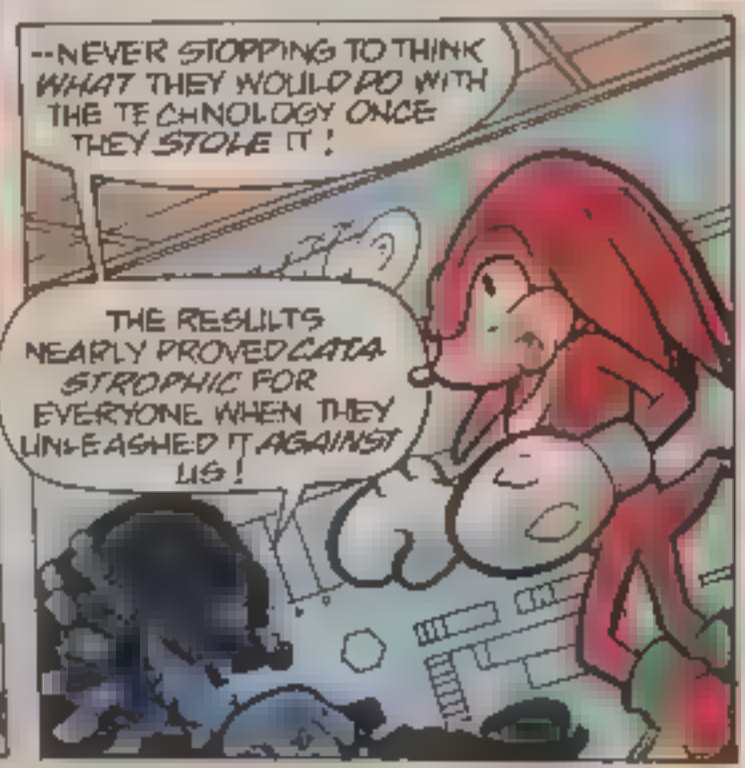
KHOOM

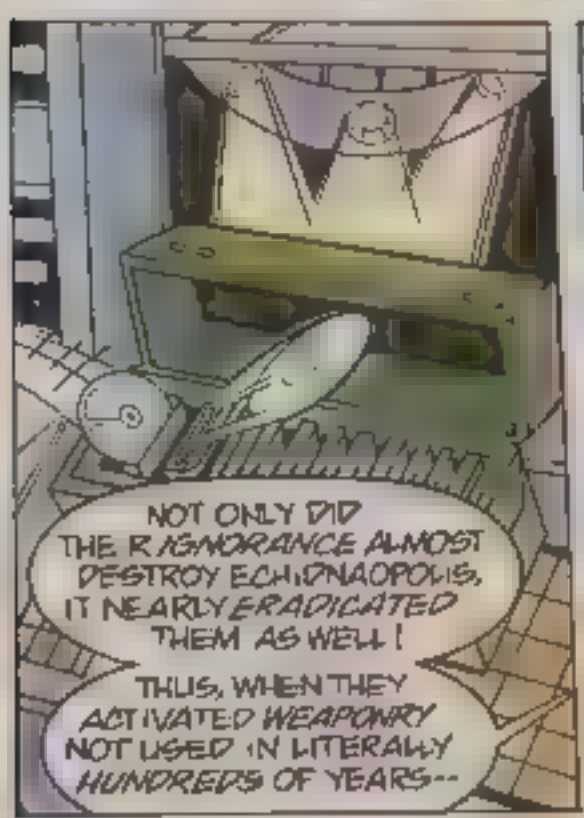
NOW, A *TURNING POINT* HAD BEEN REACHED--

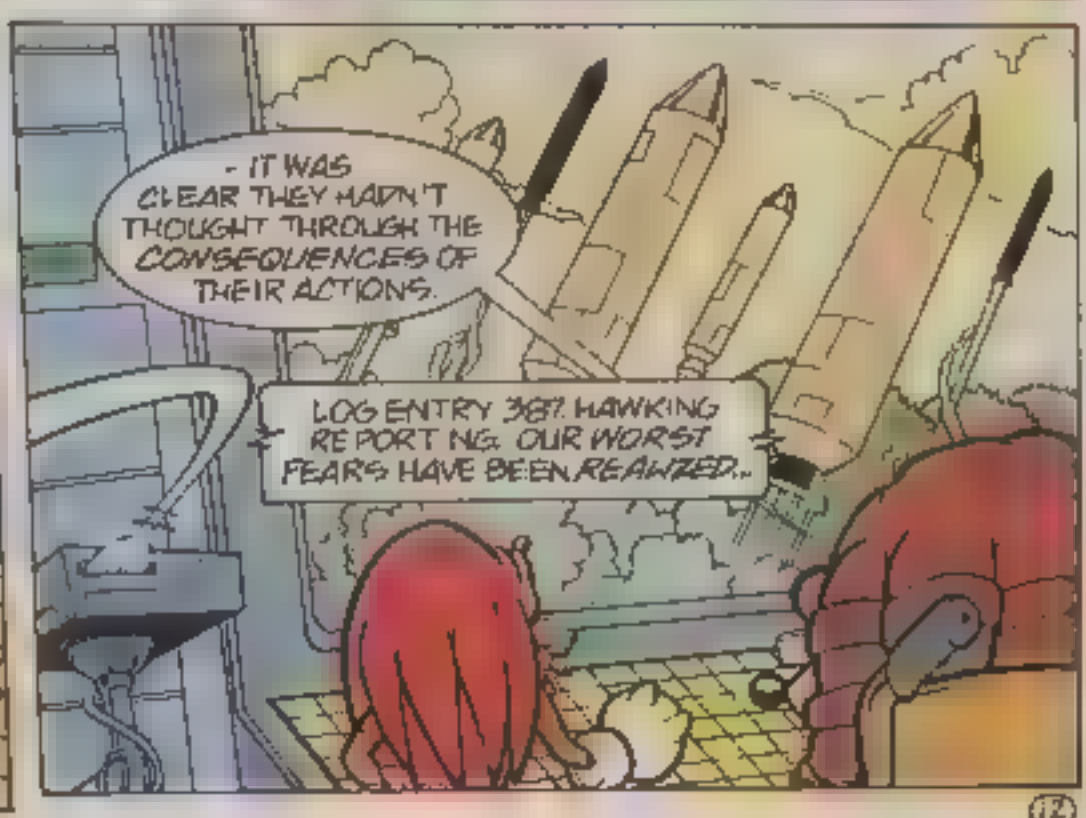

--AND THE DINGOES WEREN'T INTERESTED IN TAKING ANY PRISONERS!
SEEMS YOU HAD THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND, GRANDFATHER HAWKING!
FAR FROM IT, LAD!


YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND--
THE DINGOES WERE WARLIKE BECAUSE THAT WAS HOW THEY SURVIVED.
THEY SEEMED TO GRASP ECHIDNA TECHNOLOGY PRETTY WELL!


COMPREHEND IT, YES! BUT THEY WERE'N'T INNOVATORS!
THEY COULDN'T CONCEPTUALIZE! THEY COULD ONLY COPY AND ADAPT THAT WHICH THEY LEARNED FROM OTHERS!
ALL THEY COULD SEE WAS THAT ECHIDNA SOCIETY HAD SOMETHING THEY WANTED--


--NEVER STOPPING TO THINK WHAT THEY WOULD DO WITH THE TECHNOLOGY ONCE THEY STOLE IT!
THE RESULTS NEARLY PROVED CATASTROPHIC FOR EVERYONE WHEN THEY UNLEASHED IT AGAINST US!


NOT ONLY DID THE R'IGNORANCE ALMOST DESTROY ECHIDNAOPOLIS, IT NEARLY ERADICATED THEM AS WELL!
THUS, WHEN THEY ACTIVATED WEAPONRY NOT USED IN LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF YEARS--


- IT WAS CLEAR THEY HADN'T THOUGHT THROUGH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS.
LOG ENTRY 387. HAWKING REPORTING. OUR WORST FEARS HAVE BEEN REALIZED...

WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT UNLESS WE USE THE SAME TECHNOLOGY BEING USED AGAINST US TO DEFEND OURSELVES, WE ARE DOOMED!

WHO IS THAT WITH YOU, GRANDFATHER?

THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT!

HE'S ANOTHER GUARDIAN, AIN'T HE?

SHHH! JUST PAY ATTENTION, KNUCKLES!

WITHOUT A MOMENT TO SPARE, I RETURNED TO A SITE THAT HAD BEEN SEALED SINCE THE TIME OF EDMUND! *

* THE FIRST GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND. HISTORIAN JUSTIN

WITHIN THE CONTENTS OF THOSE LONG ABANDONED CRATES WAS PERHAPS THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION--

SEEMS TO ME EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYTHING--

--AND BY MAKING THE DECISION TO UTILIZE THAT SOLUTION--

--EXCEPT ME!

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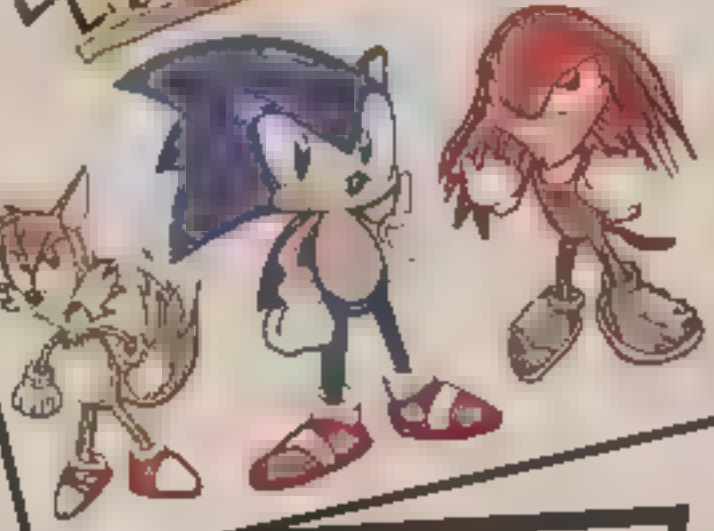
ROANOKE, VA
Age 9



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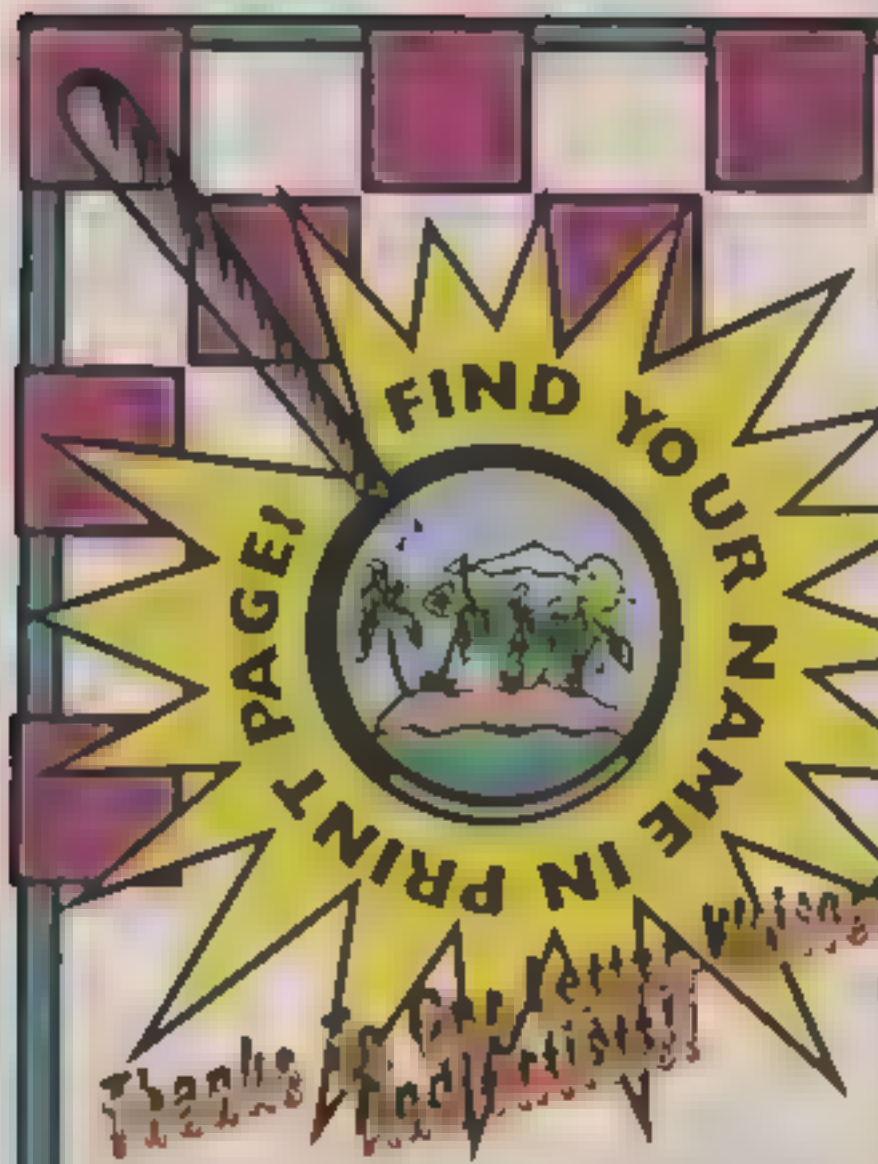
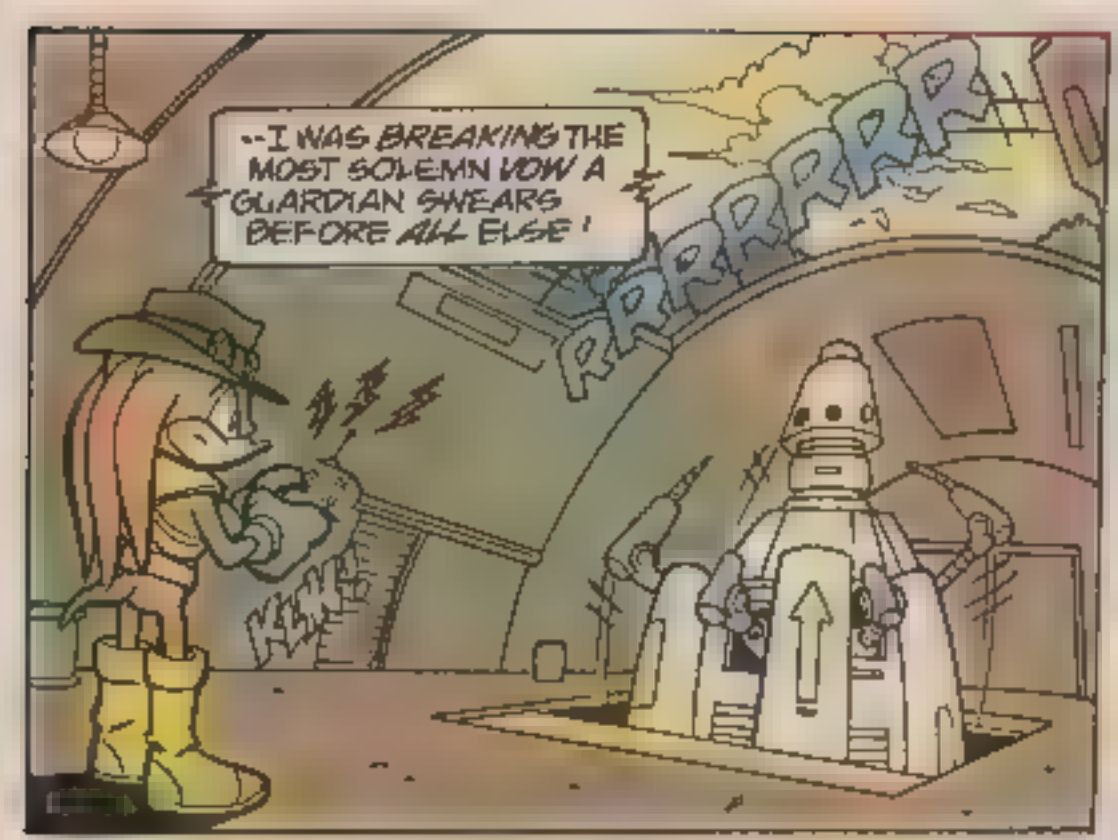
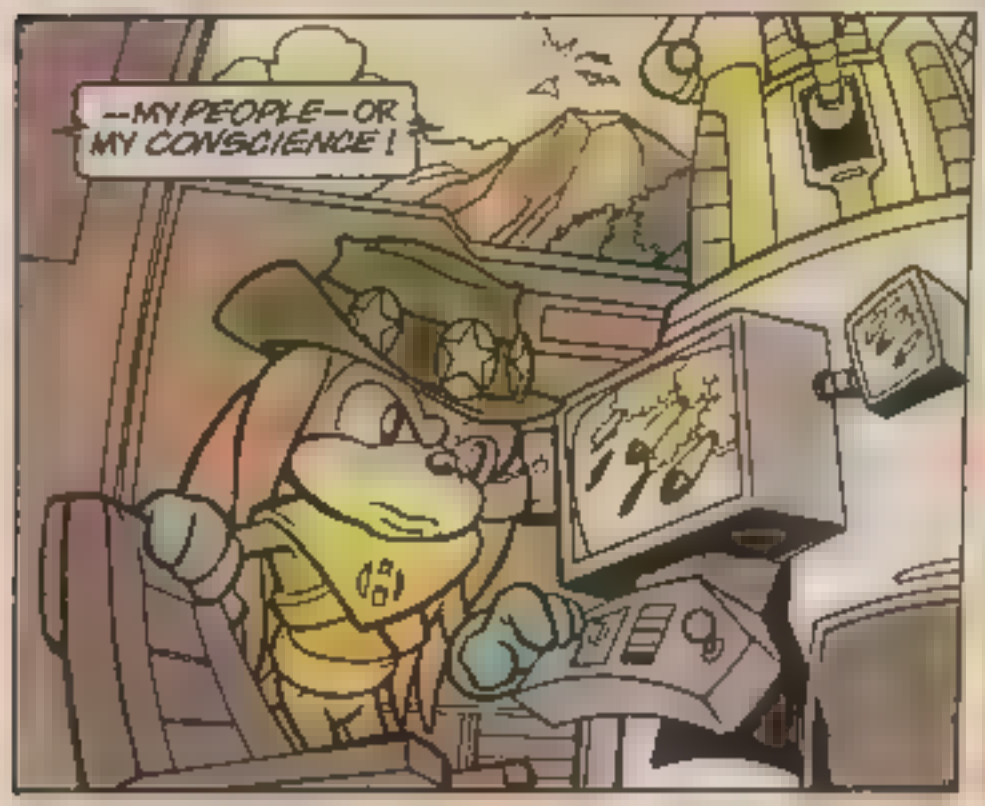


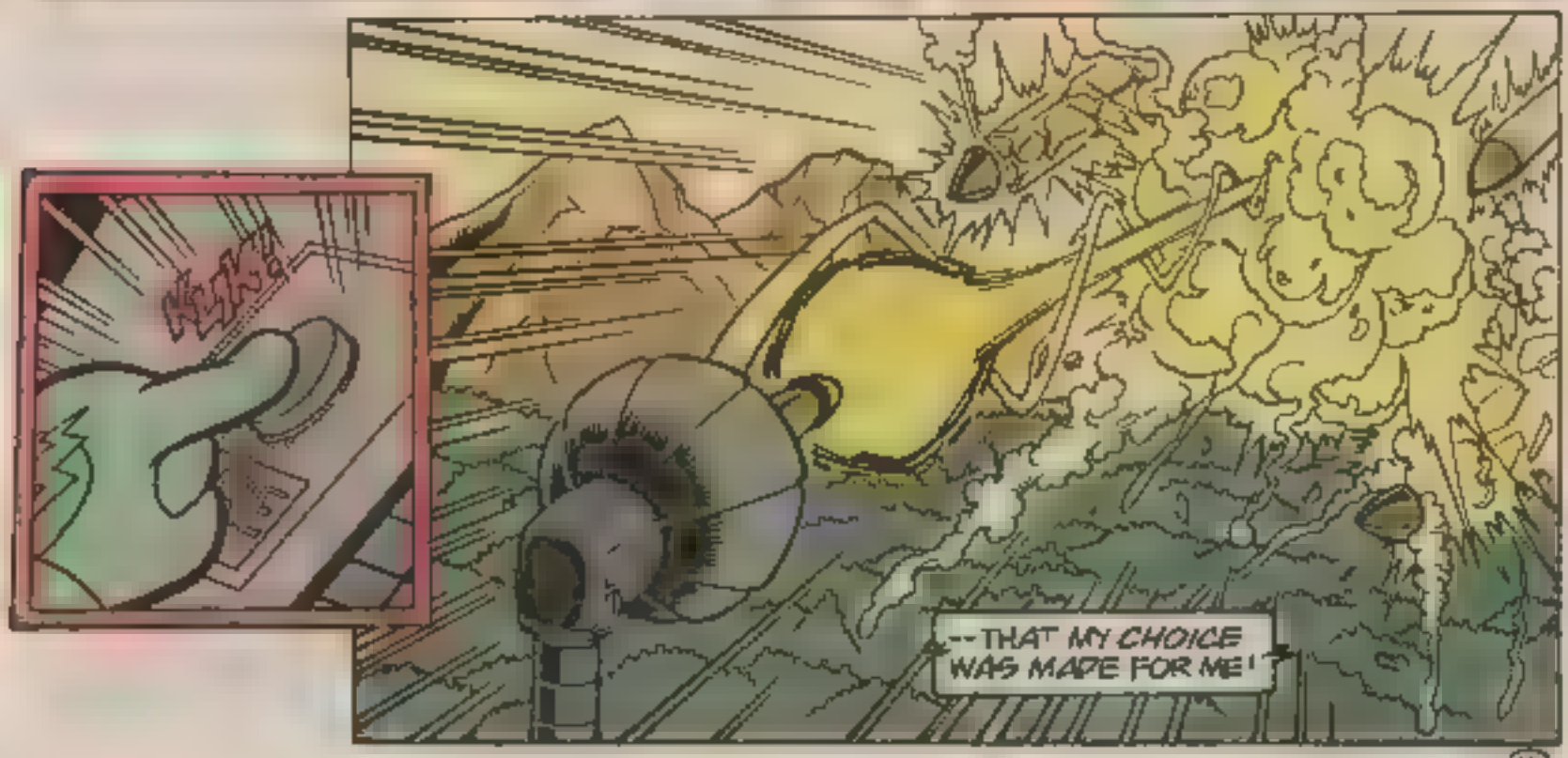
Ben Hull Leonidas & Gregonoug Fiessas Tim Hornbaker Joel "A punch is worth a thousand words" Blackwood Ronnie Mervin, Albert Kang Christopher J. Frandemont (Age 1) Ben Wing Age 8 James Dalton Age 4) Tim Petersen (Age 11 Robert Frisk (Age 8 Ovando Josh Doron Jon Dunn Schwenker Sam Barandes. Daniel Gonzalez Hank Shuler Medina Peter Waldman Zach Ashford Bill Blackwell Shawn Adam Seth Hamilton Jared Matte Aaron Michael Raven Raven Chris Dehoog Marc Susan Richard Frank Marike Joey Adam Gates Charles Gore Roy Jackson Thomas Vargo. Andy Brakebough Andrew McAndrews Andy Peterson Kenny Hickey Joshua Lorenzo Prieto Andrea Musutt Aaron Hardoll Spencer Brad Jenschke Lewis Brian Matt Grove Jessalyn Alany. Jeff Sanna Bridgett Warden Derek Hacker Jewel Nicholas Matt DiPaolo Tung Nguyen Edwards Jeffery Lancaster Adam Kiser Rebecca Wright McCloud Peter Brandt Josh Wagner Zach Dressel Taren Grant Jason Heddy Shira Tobias Mike Trinidad Crystal Rider Keith Madrid Davis Lewis Coward Daniel Plana. Joseph Fews Hughes Michele Hall Ariel Johnson Derek Hughes Jason Moore Dominic Craddock Nicole Jason Workman Lynn Haven Tyler Robertson Jared Maynard Manny Pimentel James Rokka Brett Fritzke Cole Gollette Cesar Reyes Tamara Brady Liam Britten Huston Ronan Cooke Veronica Valencia. Lauren Fazio Erick Cioffi Alex Suggs Jason Ryan Michael Fazio Clarence Cartwright Sherree Valentine Lakesha Martin, Rollen Anton, TJ Gathchell, Casey Reynolds. Nicholas Lopez Alex Justin Dixon Payton Berry Drew Springer Anthony Jackson Marie Jackson Brian Dodge Curtis Thomas Shatkun June Ferrell Carol Wang Brenna Shay Chris Dartmouth Sheridan Powell Robert Smith Alex Nunez David Grady Daniel Grasso Kari Hansen Mallory Hasiage Cole Kettering, Ethan Jud Christian D.S. Herbert Baker Chris Burnham Josue Rivera Danny Posner Jamie Walker Devin Zettel Marcos Chard Tim Gates Steve Strozewski Amos Milewski Marcos Chard. Alex Pinnon Kristen Gregoire Logan Dykstra David Bowden Shane Dexter James Sidwell Matt Mason Dillon Henry Addam Bierka Matt Jellell Marty Blank Duane Powel Cory Snodgrass Matthew Jacvith Danny Ermel Nicole Dorman Amanda Borrow Marquis Freeman Steve Miner Billy Simpson Joe Jennings Michael Cole Leah Jones Michael Shepherd Eytan Peer Adam Grosjouc Kimberly Stephens. Michael Gibney Kevin O'Brien, A.J. Thomas, Avid Haddock, Peggy Brown, Lauren Feliciano Jeff Bene Brendan Lane Jacob Dewitt Jacy Moore Enrique Moreno Mike Ferris Thuy Nguyen Diane Vo Matt Kinske Brian Fawcet David Bernard Lloyd Cambell, Jonathan Lozano, Adam Pots, John Berger Jeffery Andrey Shindrgaev Matt Polen Mitchell Polen Melissa Martinez Lisa Wheeten Mario Cardenas, Louie Martinez, Jason Lightbody, Mario Cardenas Opal Coulter Maria Culver Reuven Ronin Clayton Knight Matthew Grileo Daniel Evesley Julie Perez Samantha Marechal Brian McElroy Dallas Beath Ann Marsh Aaron Gomes Ken Hansen Andres Duran Josh Miles Jacob Samevia Pete Goss Ben Boldt Andrew Yoho Michael Scott Kendal Brenneman John Smith Kevin Comeau Cory Carroll Duane Doak (Age 13) and Billy Gridley (Age 8).


--I WAS BREAKING THE MOST SOLEMN VOW A GUARDIAN SWEARS BEFORE ALL ELSE!
RRRRRRRR!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WONDERED WHICH MATTERED MORE -


--MY PEOPLE--OR MY CONSCIENCE!

IT WAS AFTER I WITNESSED THE SIGHT OF THE NUCLEAR TERROR HEADING IN OUR DIRECTION--


--THAT MY CHOICE WAS MADE FOR ME!

KRA-KHUUUM!!!

AT FIRST GLANCE, IT APPEARED WE WOULD SURVIVE THE DINGOES' MISSILE STRIKE WITH OUR ENERGY SHIELDS DEFLECTING THE NUCLEAR DEBRIS!

HOWEVER, NOT EVEN THE ENERGY SHIELDS COULD CONTAIN THE RADIOACTIVE DUST THAT CARRIED IN THE WINDS, SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE FLOATING ISLAND

SINCE THE ENTIRE ISLAND STOOD TO BE AFFECTED, EVACUATION WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

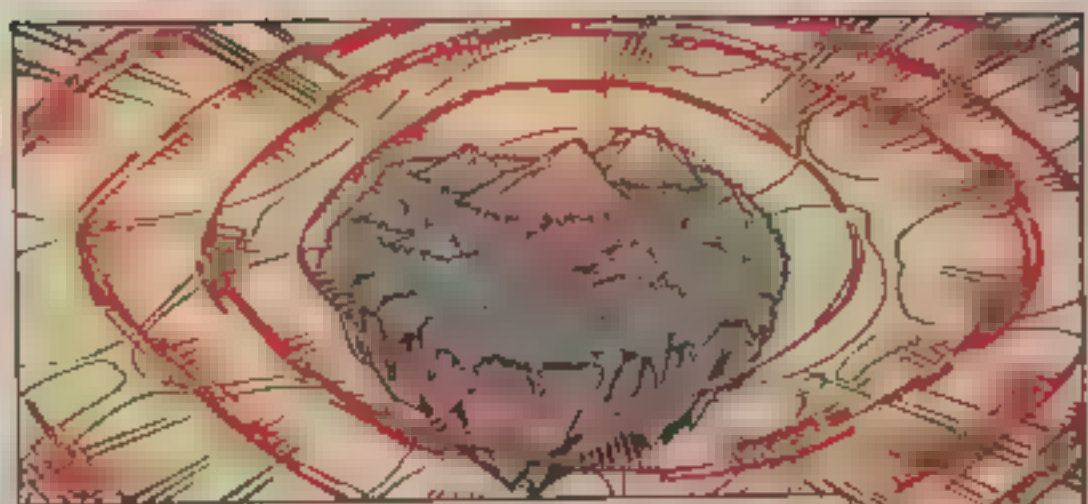
HOWEVER I DISCOVERED A POSSIBLE OPTION AMONG DIMITRI'S PAPERS, HE THEORIZED THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER ZONES, WHICH OCCUPIED THE SAME SPACE BUT OPERATING AT DIFFERENT VIBRATIONAL SPEEDS.

WITH THAT AS MY STARTING POINT, I DESIGNED AND BUILT OUR ONE LAST-DITCH HOPE--

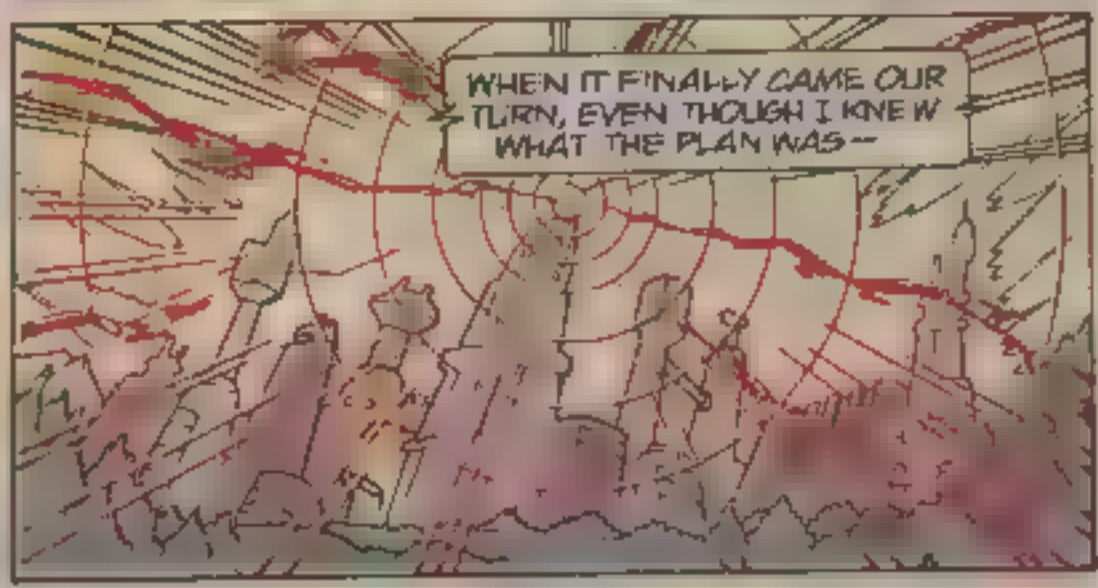
--THE HYPER ZONE PROJECTOR.

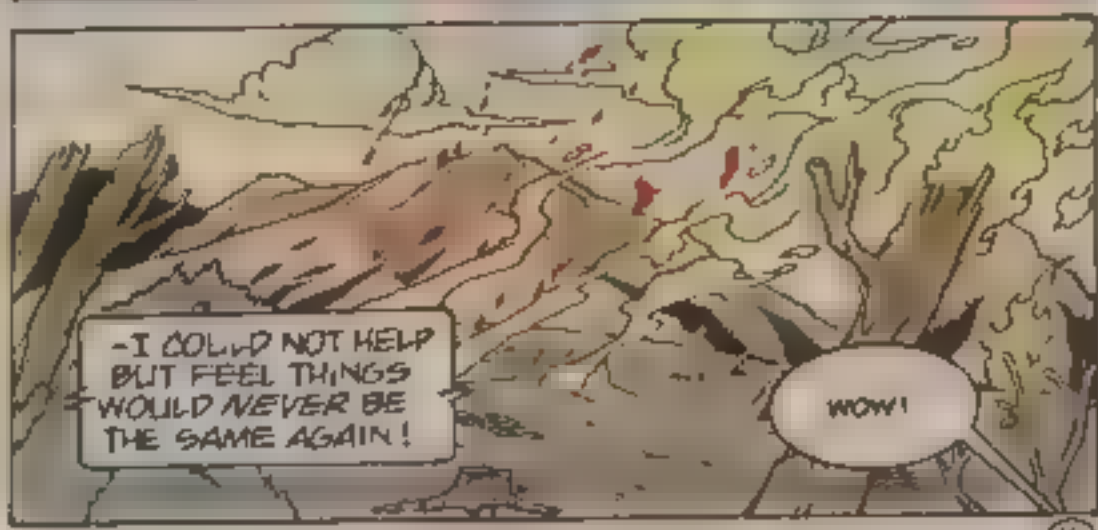
WE WOULD USE IT TO TRANSPORT ECHIDNAOPOLIS AND ITS CITIZENS TO THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT OF ANOTHER ZONE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS--

--UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE WAS CLEANED UP



AS I WAS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, I HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO ALL WHO INHABITED ITS MANY STRANGE AND WONDROUS REGIONS





THAT'S AMAZING!

IT SURE DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT TODAY!

SON, YOU HAVEN'T ANY IDEA HOW MUCH WORK IT TOOK TO RESTORE THE ISLAND TO WHAT IT ONCE WAS!

IT WAS WELL OVER A CENTURY BEFORE THE FIRST INHABITANTS WERE RETURNED TO THEIR HOME!

HOW COME, FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, YOU RESTORED EVERYTHING BUT THE ECHIDNAS?

AND THE DINGOES! YOU HAVE YET TO DEAL WITH THEM!

WELL, YEAH... WHY?

SIMPLE! I DIDN'T HAVE AN ENERGY SOURCE GREAT ENOUGH TO SEND BACK EITHER CITY!

IT WAS ALL I COULD DO JUST ON A PIECEMEAL BASIS!

WAIT!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YOU'LL SEE!

YOU'RE JUST FULL OF SURPRISES, AREN'T YOU?

THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, SON!

THAT STATUE IS SYMBOLIC OF BOTH YOUR HERITAGE AND YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY!

EDMI

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

I HAD NO IDEA!

I NOW HAVE MORE QUESTIONS THAN EVER BEFORE!

PLEASE, GRANDFATHER HAWKING THERE IS SO MUCH I NEED TO KNOW!

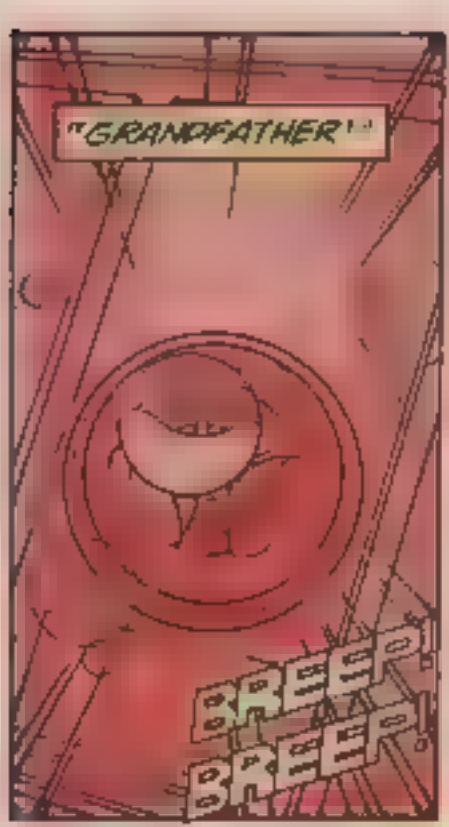
KNUCKLES, OF ALL THE GUARDIANS-

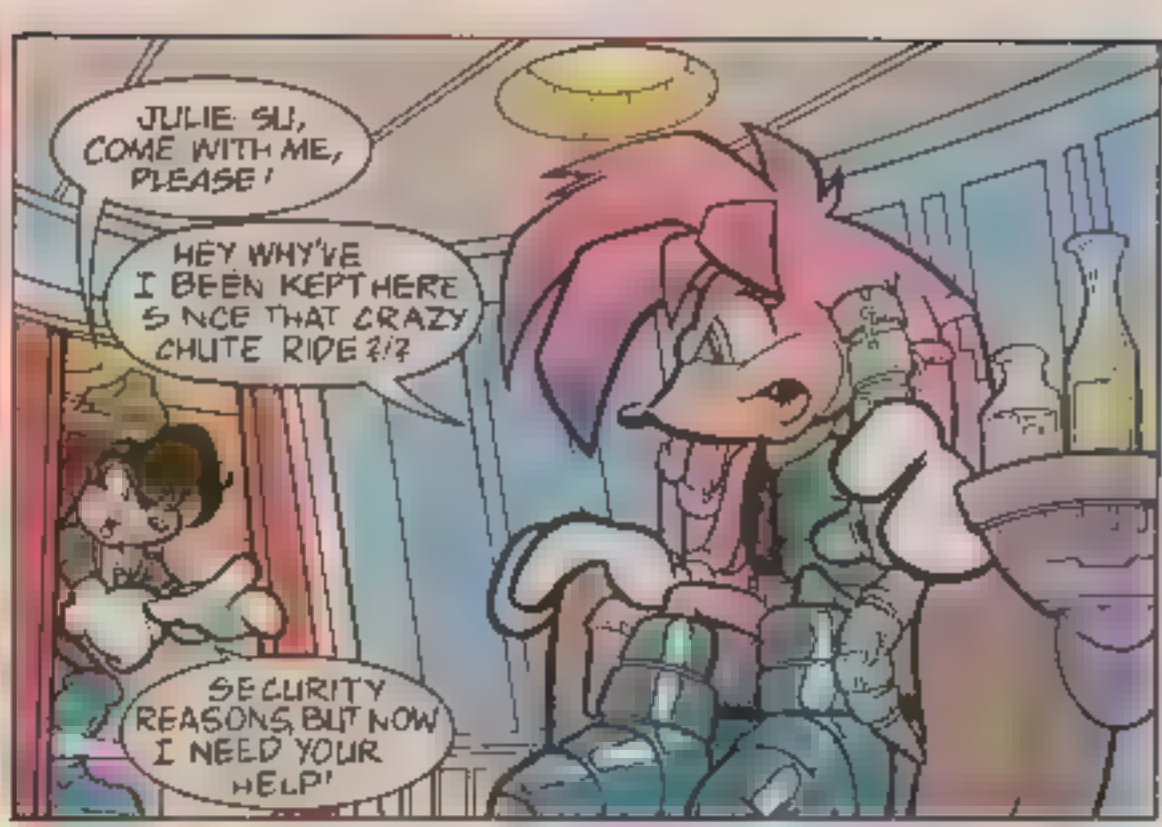
—YOU ARE THE MOST SPECIAL, FOR REASONS I CAN'T GO INTO—AND YOU'RE NOT READY FOR!

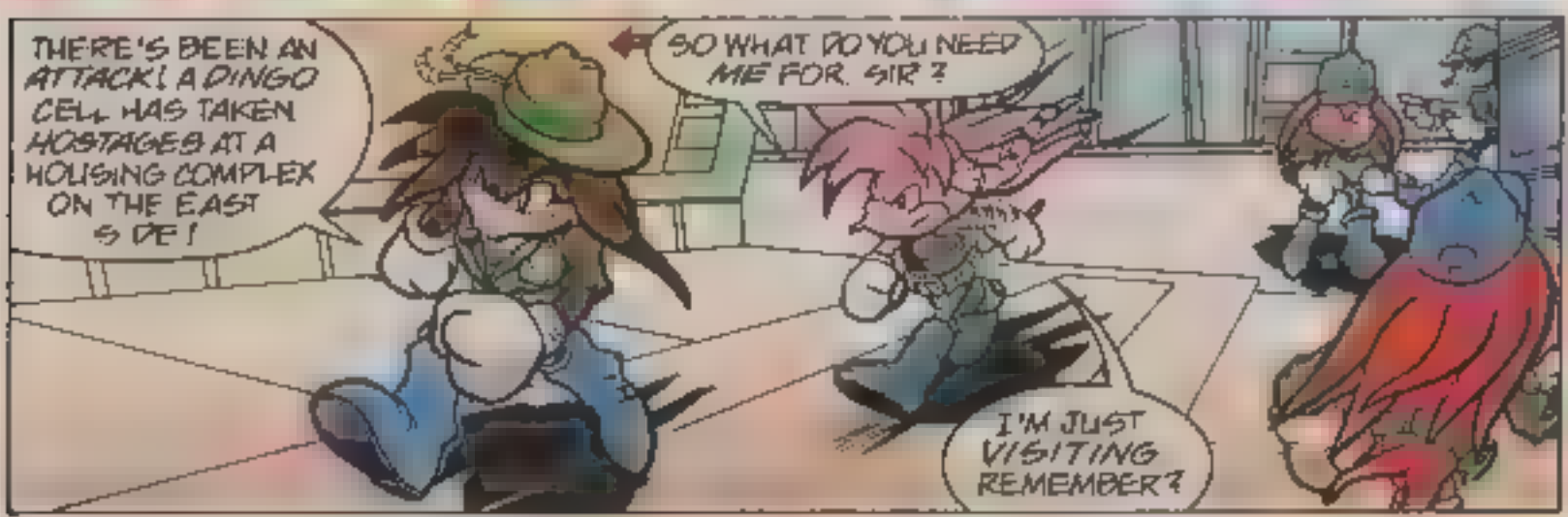
THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR NOW IS THE SAME THING EVERY GUARDIAN HAS AT YOUR STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.

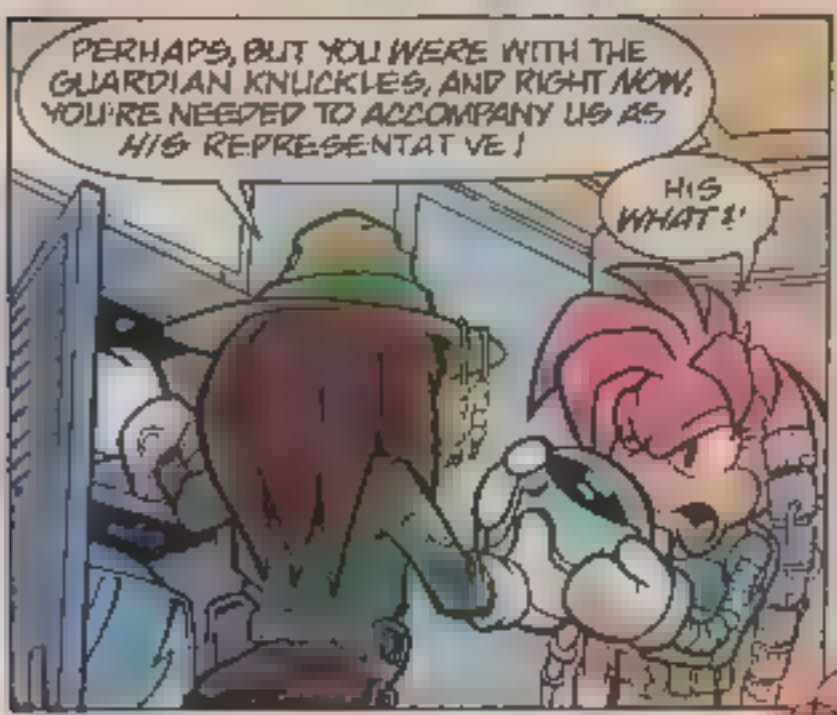
JUST SHUT UP AND LIS—

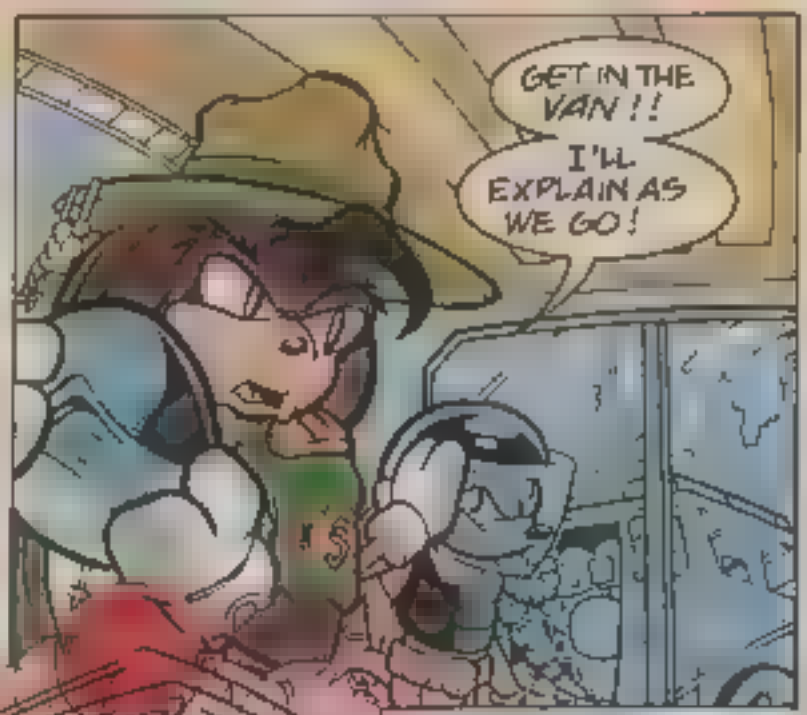
SHAKWHOOM!

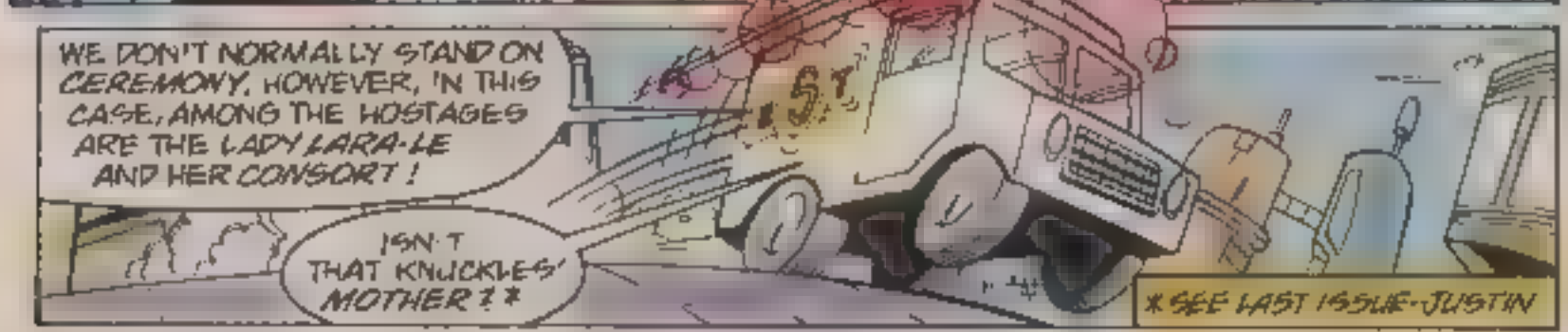

"GRANDFATHER!"
BREEP! BREEP!

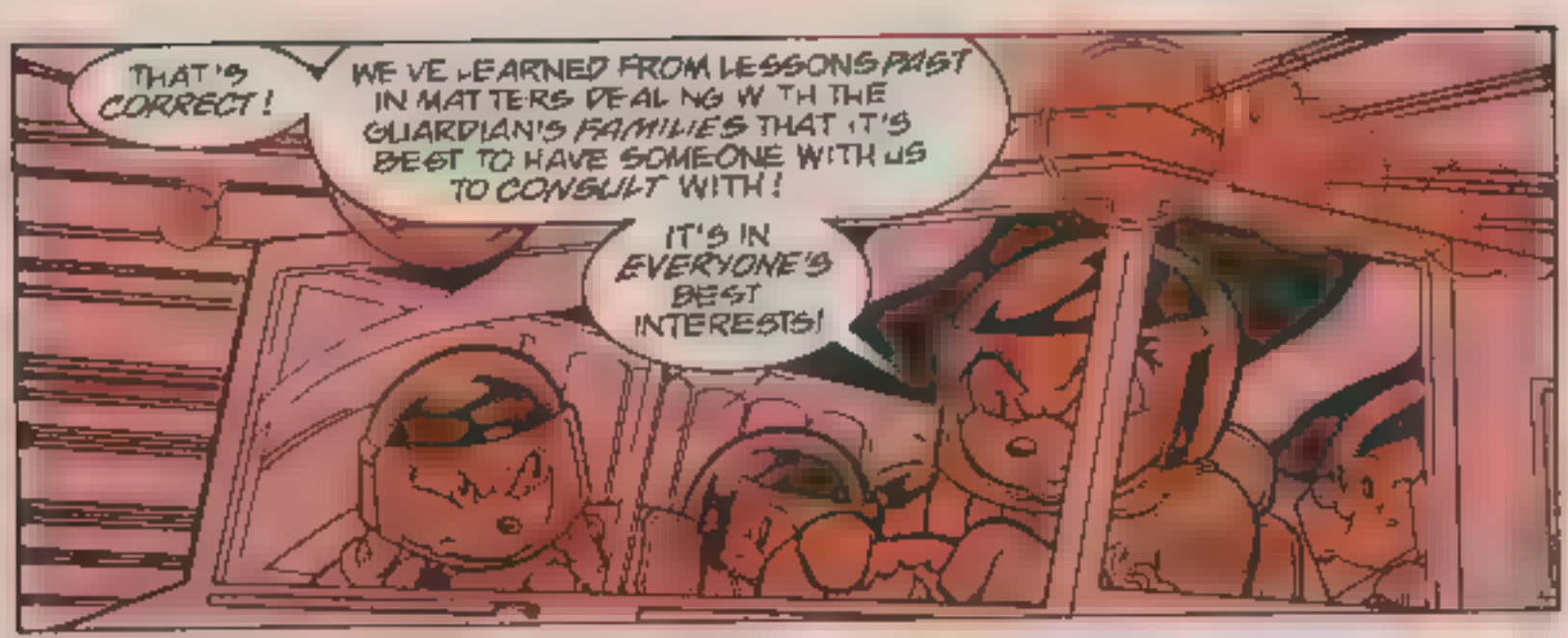

JULIE SU, COME WITH ME, PLEASE!
HEY WHY'VE I BEEN KEPT HERE SINCE THAT CRAZY CHUTE RIDE?!?
SECURITY REASONS, BUT NOW I NEED YOUR HELP!


THERE'S BEEN AN ATTACK! A DINGO CELL HAS TAKEN HOSTAGES AT A HOUSING COMPLEX ON THE EAST SIDE!
SO WHAT DO YOU NEED ME FOR, SIR?
I'M JUST VISITING REMEMBER?

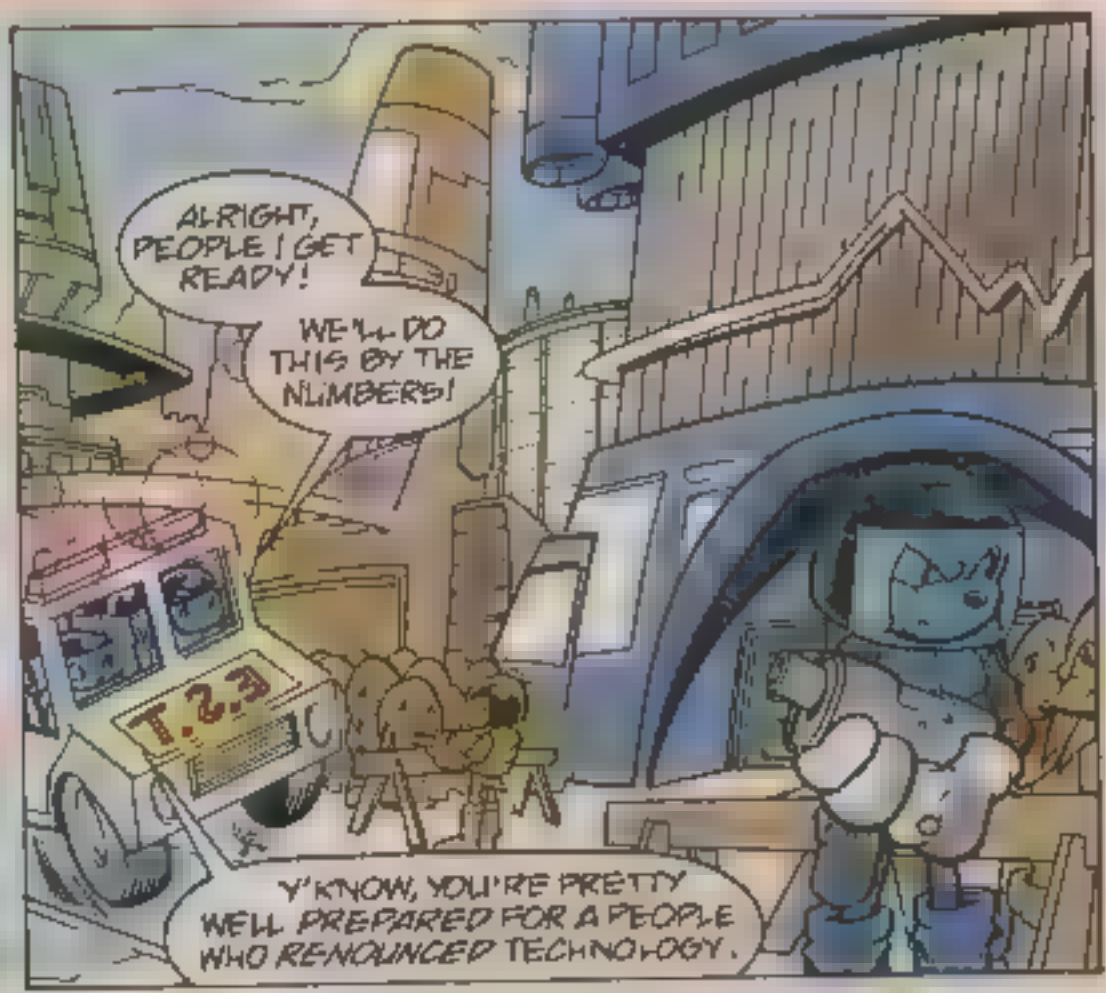

PERHAPS, BUT YOU WERE WITH THE GUARDIAN KNUCKLES, AND RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE NEEDED TO ACCOMPANY US AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE!
HIS WHAT?!

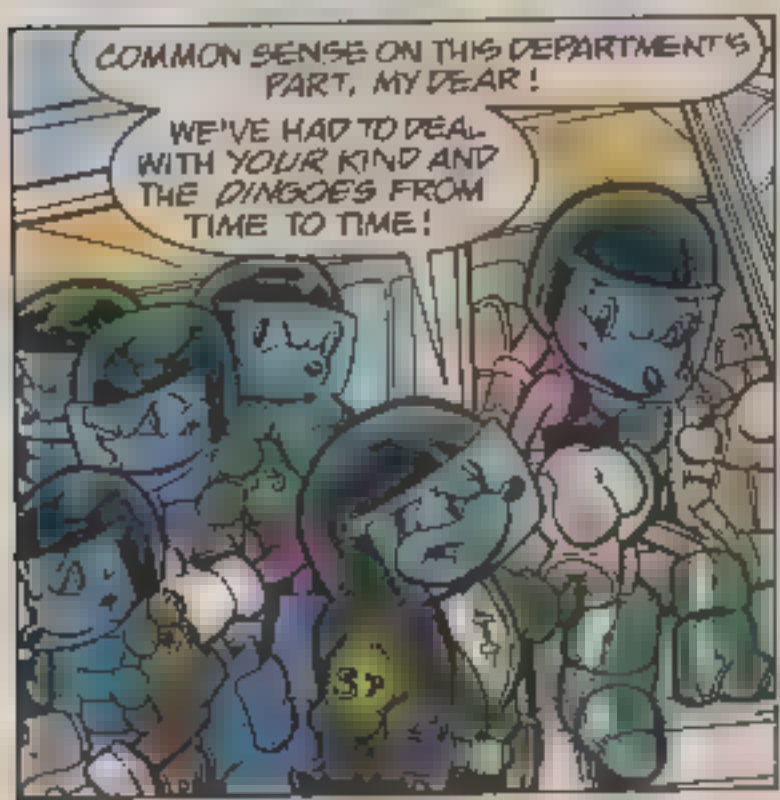

GET IN THE VAN!!
I'LL EXPLAIN AS WE GO!

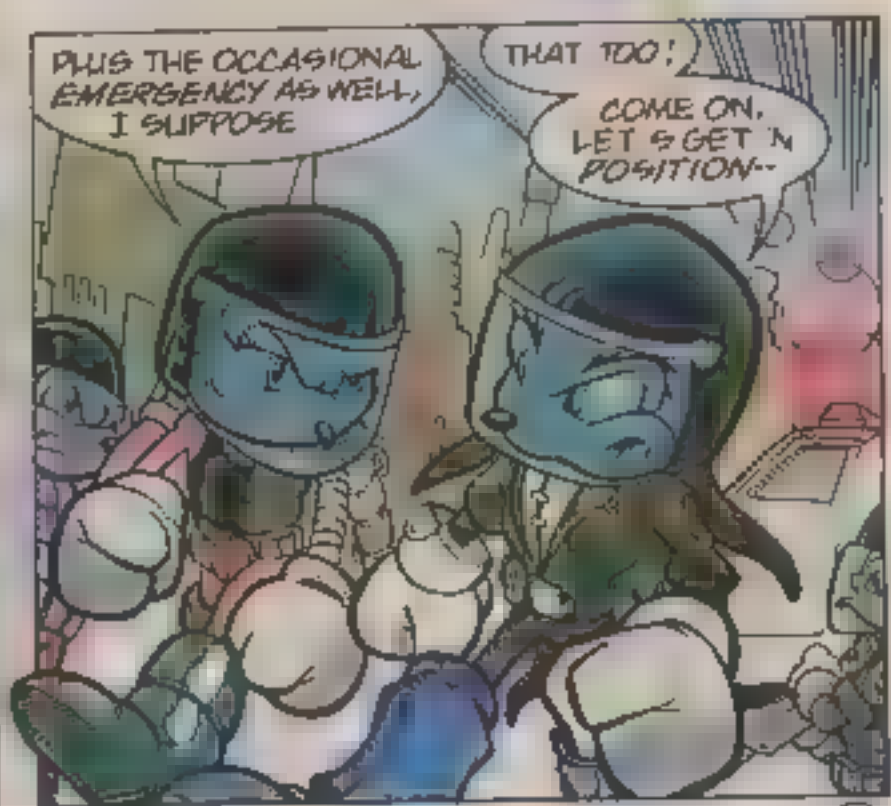

WE DON'T NORMALLY STAND ON CEREMONY, HOWEVER, IN THIS CASE, AMONG THE HOSTAGES ARE THE LADY LARA-LE AND HER CONSORT!
ISN'T THAT KNUCKLES' MOTHER?*
*SEE LAST ISSUE-JUSTIN

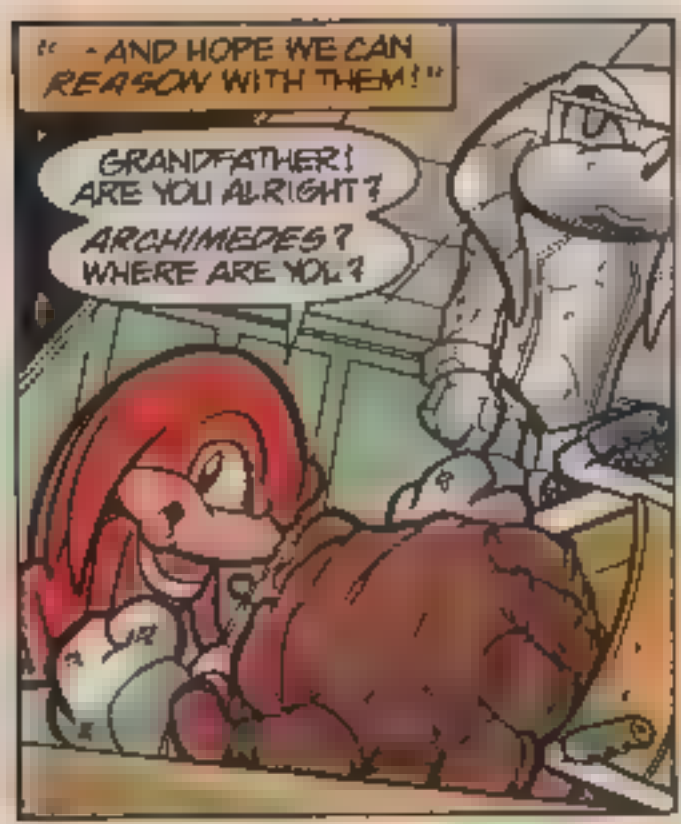

THAT'S CORRECT!
WE'VE LEARNED FROM LESSONS PAST IN MATTERS DEALING WITH THE GUARDIAN'S FAMILIES THAT IT'S BEST TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH US TO CONSULT WITH!
IT'S IN EVERYONE'S BEST INTERESTS!

YOU MAKE THEM SOUND LIKE THEY'RE ROYALTY!
I SUPPOSE THEY ARE, ALTHOUGH THEY'VE USUALLY CHOSEN TO DEFER THE HIGH COUNCIL!

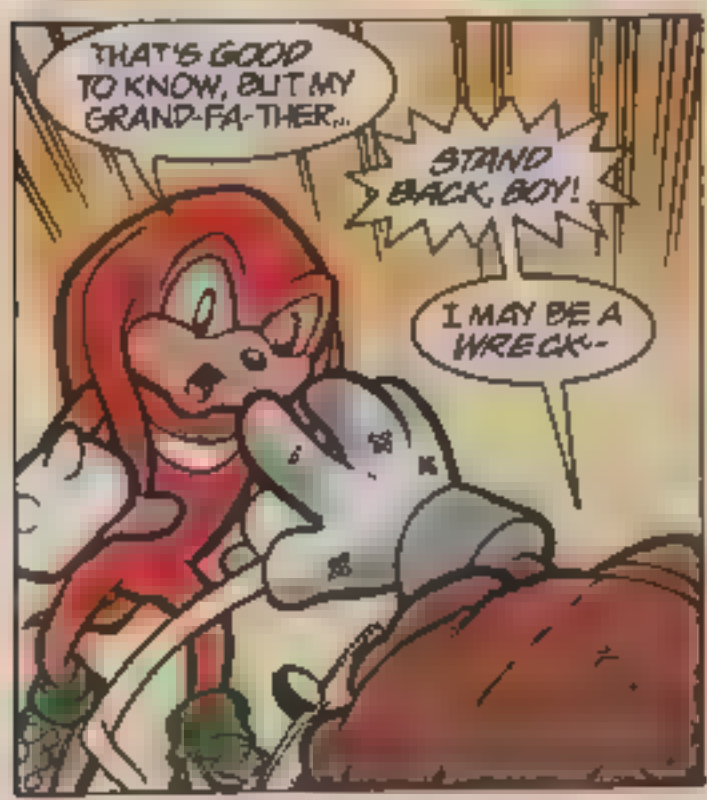

ALRIGHT, PEOPLE! GET READY!
WE'LL DO THIS BY THE NUMBERS!
T.2.3
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY WELL PREPARED FOR A PEOPLE WHO RENOUNCED TECHNOLOGY.

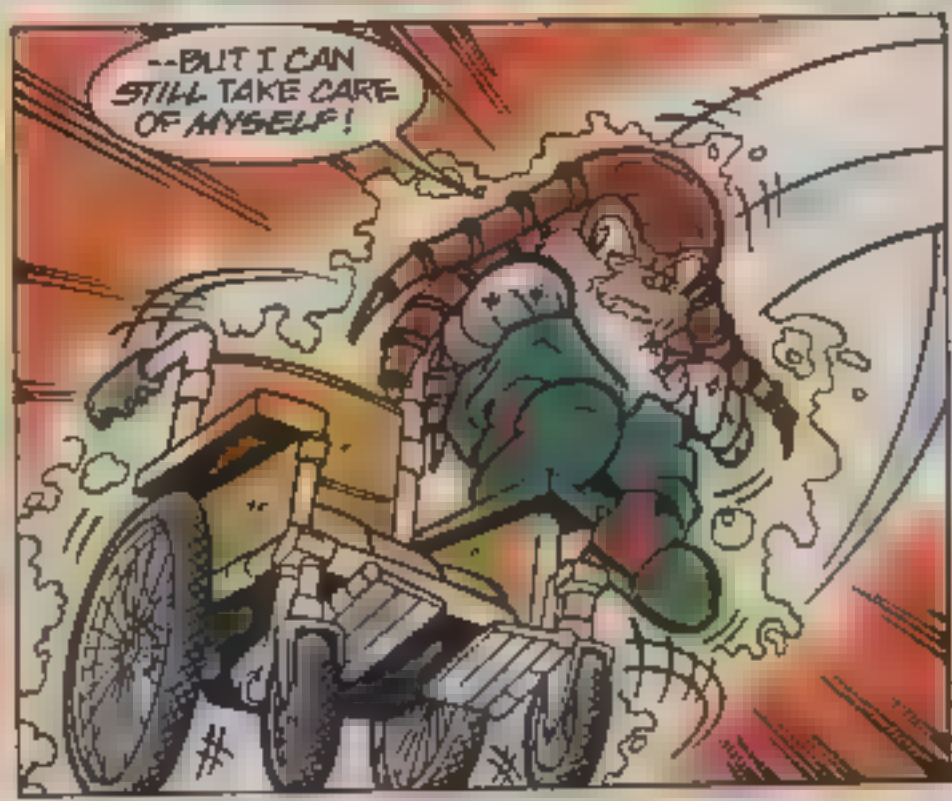

COMMON SENSE ON THIS DEPARTMENT'S PART, MY DEAR!
WE'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH YOUR KIND AND THE DINGOES FROM TIME TO TIME!

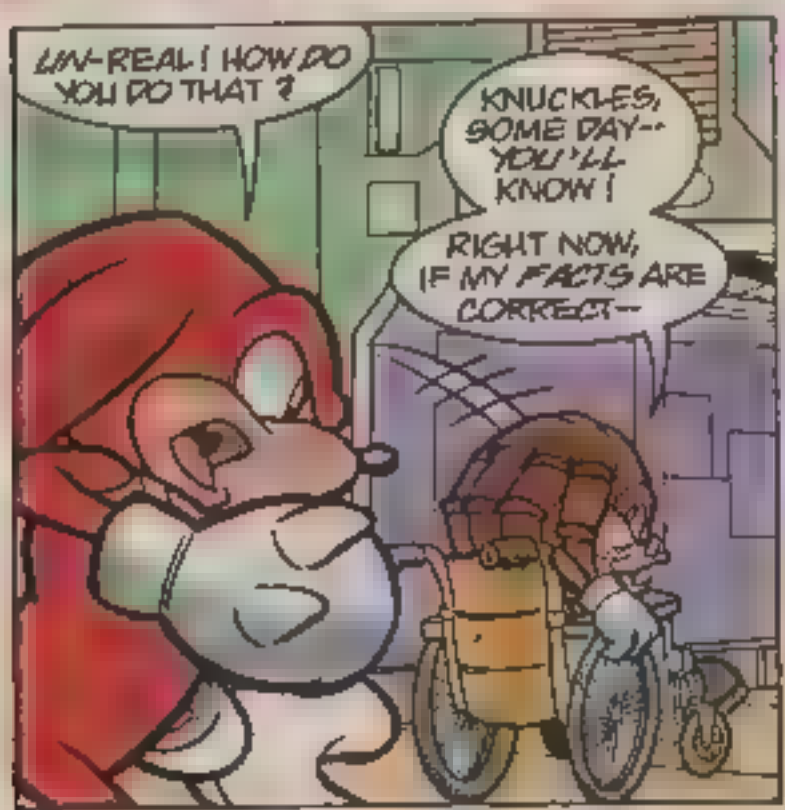

PLUS THE OCCASIONAL EMERGENCY AS WELL, I SUPPOSE
THAT TOO!
COME ON, LET'S GET IN POSITION--


" - AND HOPE WE CAN REASON WITH THEM!"
GRANDFATHER! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
ARCHIMEDES? WHERE ARE YOU?

I WAS GETTING THE FEELING YOU FORGOT I WAS HERE!
I FEEL A BIT SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED.
OTHERWISE, I'M FINE!


THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW, BUT MY GRAND-FA-THER...
STAND BACK, BOY!
I MAY BE A WRECK--


--BUT I CAN STILL TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!


UN-REAL! HOW DO YOU DO THAT?
KNUCKLES, SOME DAY-- YOU'LL KNOW!
RIGHT NOW, IF MY FACTS ARE CORRECT--

--WE HAVE TROUBLE!
MOST LIKELY, OF THE DINGO KIND!

WORSE THAN THAT!
THEY'VE GOT MY MOTHER!
LIVE AT ECHIDNA TOWERS
STAY CALM LAD!
I'M SURE THERE'S A PLAN!
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!
THE QUESTION BEFORE US, KNUCKLES--
--IS WHETHER YOU'RE READY TO HANDLE IT!
TO BE CONTINUED!

J. Freddy Gabrie
Editor

KNUCKLES #6
On sale AUGUST 1997!

SONIC #51
On sale JULY 1997!

Since the announcement of last issue's contest, those letters of yours are coming in as fast and furious as Sonic himself! For those of you just joining in, we issued a contest for best letters page suggestion. Prizes will be given away. Check out last issue for details.

Next Month: With all that's been happening lately, The Floating Island has never been busier. Everything comes to a head as **Knuckles** risks it all to save his mom from the **Dingoes**. What will happen to **Echidnaopolis**? Is it back for good... or will it be destroyed? What lengths will **General Stryker** go to win? These questions and more will be answered in the conclusion of **"The Lost Paradise!"** in **KNUCKLES #6 on sale Aug. '97!**

In other Mobian news...**You** are cordially invited to the celebration of a lifetime — **The Knothole Victory Party!** Let the festivities get under way. But things are not always what they seem as a hidden enemy robotcizes everyone near and dear to Sonic The Hedgehog! Is **Dr. Robotnik** really gone or has someone else taken over? Story by **Karl Bollers**. Art by **Sam Maxwell and Andrew Pepoy. SONIC #51 on sale July '97!**

Prepare yourself for something different as Sonic falls into a zone with a few minor surprises (and one or two major ones to boot). This one must be seen for yourself. Story by **Tom Rolston**. Art by **Manny Galan and Jim Amash**. Also in this issue... **Princess Sally** contacts the major **Freedom Fighters** of the world. What for? Find out in this story written by **Karl Bollers** with art by **Art Mawhinney and Jim Amash**. **SONIC # 52 on sale Aug. '97!**

FREDDY

SONIC #52
On sale AUGUST 1997!

Send your letters to:
KNUCKLES-GRAMS #5
c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O.Box 419
Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419
E-mail address:
SonicNotes@aol.com

PS.: **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #1: A Brave New World** is coming! 'Nuff said!

Because of limited space, the editors cannot guarantee that all correspondence will be published and reserve the right to edit messages as they see fit.

Dear Knuckles,

I just received the first two issues of KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION! Like Tony the Tiger, I think "They're Grrrreat!" I absolutely loved it! You can tell when I like a comic because when I read it I get hyper. It would be the bomb, if you get your own regular series. I have some questions for you: 1) What happened to Dimitri's son Menniker in issue one? How come he wasn't shown again? 2) You're an only child. Is your father an only child, too?

Well, I'll close with the artwork in "THE DARK LEGION" series is the best work Manny Galan has ever done! His artwork has really improved since "SONICQUEST: THE DEATH EGG SAGA" series! Also, I think Ken Penders and Kent Taylor make a great writing team. Keep up the good work.

Jessica "Sodapop" Levine (Age 13)
Thornton, IL

Hey, "Sodapop," thanks for your "Grrrrreat" compliment. I hope you didn't get hurt bouncing off those walls. If it continues, I'm going to have to issue warnings on the covers of my books saying: "Caution: The contents in this issue might cause temporary wall-bouncing!" Well, on to your questions: 1) By now you know that Menniker was the first Grandmaster of The Dark Legion. In effect, he was shown again. 2) As far as I know, dad was an only child.

Dear Knuckles,

I think you're way cool! My mom said Sonic is cooler, but compared to you, Sonic is the most uncool guy on Mobius. I have some questions for you to answer: 1) Why did your father enter The Forbidden Zone? 2) Where did you get your sneakers? They're much cooler than Sonic's. 3) Do you have a sensitive side besides your macho side? 4) Do you have a mother? 5) Can I join The Chaotix? Well, here are the lyrics for a Knuckles song sung to the tune of Sonic's animated theme song: "Rad red flies by. Knuckles The Echidna. He is a strong guy. Knuckles The Echidna. Knuckles, he can really fly. Knuckles, he's got an eagle eye. Knuckles, he's the coolest thing alive. Watch out or he'll get you. Knuckles The Echidna. Don't doubt what he can do. Knuckles The Echidna. Knuckles, he can really fly. Knuckles, he's got an eagle eye. Knuckles, he's the coolest thing alive."

Kyle Kunesh
Covina, CA

Thanks for writing my own song, Kyle. I always thought I was as cool (if not cooler) than Sonic. He can sometimes get a little obnoxious, you know. 1) I don't know why my dad entered into The Forbidden Zone but I hope to find out some day. 2) My dad gave them to me before he left me. 3) I'd like to think so but I'd never admit it. 4) Uh, yeah. 5) Only if you promise to protect The Floating Island and to read my book every month. Deal?

Dear Knuckles,

I started reading Sonic comics a few years ago when they were very hard to find. Now I see them in more stores making it that much easier to get all the issues I want. I also collect any Sonic mini-series I see. That's when I first saw you and I enjoy reading your adventures, too. Question time: 1) How are The Chaotix doing? 2) Do you think Robotnik will try to launch a surprise attack on The Floating Island? 3) How old are you?

Eric Ashmore
Carrollton, GA

Answer time: 1) The Chaotix are doing just fine, thanks. 2) Now that Robotnik's been defeated, I don't think that's happening any time soon. 3) I am fifteen years old.

Dear Sonic-Notes,

I love your comic and the staff is doing a great job! I have questions from a Knuckles fan: 1) Is Knuckles' dad's name Steppenwolf? 2) Is the Knuckles comic going to get a new bad guy or are they going to wear out The Dark Legion just like they did with Robuttnik?

Drew Lyons
iceddrew@juno.com

Thanks for the kind words, Drew. 1) My dad's name is Locke. Steppenwolf is an ancestor. 2) Don't worry about how many bad guys we have because, unfortunately, we have plenty of them. Bad guys from Enerjak to Mammoth Mogul; from Kragok and The Dark Legion to General Stryker and The Dingoes. How's that for starters?

Well, that's it for this month. This is Knuckles— signing off! See you next month!

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